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FAVORITE QUOTE OR MANTRA THAT YOU LIVE BY?

People produce the mission results. Hire the right people with a positive attitude and take care of them!

NAME A LEADER THAT YOU ADMIRE AND THE QUALITIES THAT YOU BELIEVE MAKE THEM A SUCCESSFUL LEADER?

My boss. He thinks big and works the details. He prepares carefully, enlists the help of other leaders and experts. He is sensitive to others, yields to others in conversation by listening well. He serves the organization first and then his own organization. He sets conditions so the team can think of opportunities and go achieve big improvements.

WHAT PERSUADED YOU TO SERVE IN THE ARMED FORCES?

My mother included the U.S. Air Force Academy on a list of colleges to consider. I chose to start at a service academy due to the narrower window for age to enter, salary in college, job after college, 100 percent of a man's pay, sports, travel, and serving my country.

I was in the third class of women at the U.S. Air Force Academy that consisted of 200 women and 4000 men.

CONTACT

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WHAT HABITS OR SKILLS DID YOU ACQUIRE IN THE MILITARY?

In my first assignment, I was a Hurricane Hunter and flew into 27 hurricanes and typhoons. I flew 3975 hours as a navigator in WC-130s and KC-135s. I also served as a mayor of a military base (city) and led an HR team serving 32,000 employees. My family and I were stationed in Korea, all over the US, and Germany with one deployment to the United Arab Emirates. Through my 28-year military career, I gained the following:

- *Skills:* Provided leadership opportunities as a flight commander, squadron commander, group commander, division chief, and director
- *Staff work:* Worked directly for general officers for 8 years
- *Resource management:* Oversaw \$6B fleet of KC-135 aircraft as a 35-year old
- *Change:* Lived in 13 houses before children departed for college

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO CONTINUE TO WORK IN YOUR FIELD OF EXPERTISE AFTER YOUR MILITARY SERVICE?

I wanted to continue serving my country and to continue growing my leadership skills as an SES.

I wanted to serve in the nation's capital to have the ability to change jobs and not move my children in their high school years

ONE TIP THAT YOU WOULD GIVE TO WOMEN THAT ASPIRE TO BE IN LEADERSHIP ROLES.

Have faith and confidence in yourself. You can do this. Network. Find the stairs. Take the first step. Make decisions that support your journey toward your goals. Go do it. You may hit a wall. Go find the next door. Keep going!

Personally, I also find inner strength in being grateful. I also exercise for clear thinking, bright outlook, energy, and endurance reserves.

BEST PROFESSIONAL ADVICE THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED?

Be a lifelong learner. Read. Engage technology. Try new things. Be a nimble thinker.