

Young Signal warrant officer living lifelong dream to be a Soldier

By CW5 Todd M. Boudreau

If you want to see an example of the Signal warrant officer today take a look at WO1 Elizabeth Tysall to get a picture of who they are, from whence they come and to what they aspire.

WO1 Tysall says, "Since I was a little girl, I have always wanted to serve my country."

She says, provocative and entertaining narratives stories from her father, grandfather, and uncles about their military exploits dumped fuel onto the smoldering fire that burned within her from the earliest point she can remember. Studying the military seemed a natural adjunct to life all around her. She read voraciously of epic battles and various military campaigns. Even the Bible provided vivid descriptions of battles and the warriors who waged victorious campaigns.

As a child WO1 Tysall said she and her siblings would play cavalry. There was always a huge land dispute, reservation problem or other such conflict or battle to resolve. They constantly manufactured a war.

It surprised no one that as soon as she was old enough she set out to be a Soldier. The week after graduation from high school, she went directly to basic training. That is when she marks the start of her true relationship with the Army. From that very moment she says knew that this was the job for her.

WO1 Tysall resolutely states, "Our country needs a strong and successful military. And that military needs leaders who enjoy their jobs...who are dedicated to doing the right thing, regardless of the impact on their personal circumstances."

Military Background

Her diligence earned her rapid promotions. She quickly moved into the ranks of the noncommissioned corps. From September 2003 until February 2005, she served as a watch NCO and emergency action cell controller in the U.S. Army Europe G-3, Heidelberg, Germany. She was responsible for the decoding of classified mission-relevant traffic in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. SGT Tysall revamped the Read Book for the USAREUR G-3, which became widely used by other Directorate Staff Officers. She also monitored Army and Joint level sites for mission relevant traffic. SGT Tysall was selected as the USAREUR NCO of the month for January 2005.

In February 2005, she assumed the position of operations NCO, Headquarters and Headquarters Company USAREUR, Heidelberg. During her tenure at HHC she was responsible for all training functions that were executed by HHC USAREUR. Additionally, she developed and maintained tracking systems for MEDPROS, and Family Care Plans. As the USAREUR Schools NCO, SSG Tysall was responsible for the ATRRS functions of more than 700 USAREUR Soldiers.

SSG Tysall moved to the U.S. Central Command in September 2006 and was subsequently trained as a Global Command and Control Systems administrator. As a GCCS administrator, she built and maintained the GCCS Server Enclave at CENTCOM, and was selected to serve as the CENTCOM Forward Headquarters GCCS NCOIC. While at CFH, she implemented a physical fitness program for the Joint service members within the CENTCOM J-6. In August 2008, she was selected to serve on the commander's communications team.

From September 2008 until she reported for training at the Warrant Officer Candidate School, she was employed on numerous missions throughout the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility including Europe, North America, Africa, and Asia. During this time, she led advance communications missions, served as the personal communicator, field tested innovative communications equipment and techniques, and was involved in the development and refinement of classified on-the-move communications mediums; all in pursuit of constant global connectivity for the commander, USCENTCOM.

WO1 Tysall's military education as an enlisted Soldier includes the Warrior Leaders Course, the Advanced Leaders Course, and the Battle Staff NCO Course. She was the Distinguished Honor Graduate for Warrant Officer Candidate Course, class 10-018. She is currently in training at the Signal Warrant Officer Basic Course. She also attended the Air Force's Global Command and Control Systems Administrators Course, is Department of the Army Level II certified in Information Assurance, and has completed the



WO1 Elizabeth Tysall at Fort Gordon, Ga. in 2011.

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National Security Agency's COMSEC Custodian and DIAS Courses. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Technology Management from American Military University.

WO1 Tysall's military awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Driver's Badge, and the German Schutzenschnur Bronze Badge. She was named the USCENTCOM Army NCO of the Year for 2006.

WO1 Tysall has two sons, Trevor, born 2001 and Thomas, born 2005.

What They Aspire to Accomplish

Following is an excerpt from a WOCS writing assignment entitled 'My Role as a Military Officer,' in which WO1 Tysall succinctly ascribes her aspirations: "The people in our great nation look to the officers in our military for confidence, strength, and courage. They expect and deserve individuals with good character, those who can set and enforce standards, and those who are willing to lead the young Americans who enlist in our Armed Services to success.

As everyone knows, we are a nation at war. It is not a quiet conflict, not one fought only on the battlefield, not one only fought in Washington, D.C.

This current set of wars is being debated in living rooms throughout the country by families fueled by what the media feeds our countrymen. It is being

contested in our nation's capital by our elected officials. It is being challenged by our global neighbors. Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, and Marines who comprise our fighting forces are fighting those engagements in such arena as well as on the ground, in the air, and on the sea. Depending on the current mood of the media, our countrymen might look at our fighting forces as monsters, part of a terrible death and disruption device; or they could be lauded as heroes, leading the impressionable field of American volunteers who choose to serve this great nation.

"Keeping the members of our fighting forces safe and secure is the most important task of any military leader. It is a leader's responsibility to train and protect America's volunteer force. The leader must inspire confidence in those who are in their charge. Setting, then enforcing standards is an important way to do this.

A leader must analyze the mission and base their direction on that mission. Junior leaders have an even more pronounced supporting role as they will use this knowledge to advise and inform their commander. All activities and functions of a unit are the ultimate responsibility of the most senior leader or commander.

This individual must guide subordinates and lead them to success. The intermediary leaders will support this endeavor by seeking the tactical and technical attributes of the entire group and situation. Then they will mitigate the holes that manifest. These people will also produce a trustworthy environment for all personnel.

It is imperative that all subordinates trust and have confidence in their leadership. This fosters a



Warrant officer candidates stand in formation at 1st Warrant Officer Company, Warrant Officer Candidate School.

positive foundation for open communication and streamlines the entire process of getting things done. Those subordinate to the leaders will have a much easier time completing tasks when they are doing so for concerned and informed leaders. The leader needs to be someone that the group can count on for direction and strength. Becoming that leader is essential to mission success.

There are many different reasons to become an Officer in the United States Army. For me, it will be the best vessel to take care of our nation and the young men and women who volunteer to help defend it. It will also bring me closer to the realization of a personal desire formed in my childhood. I have always given my best. I am a driven human being. This behavior will not stop.

My ambition will not wane. Mission accomplishment is what I have to offer. My troops will be well-conditioned and confident, because I will set the example. I will listen to them and be the leader on which they can depend. I do not only want to be an officer. I need to be an officer. This is what I have been called to do for the American warriors who keep our great nation free."

The Making of a 255A

WO1 Tysall is currently enrolled in her Warrant Officer Basic Course and is scheduled to graduate with MOS 254A. You can read more in the issue about the evolution of the MOS 254A to include its inception, past history, current status, and future repurposing to MOS 255A. In brief, MOS 251A and MOS 254A are in the process of merging. As such, both WOBC programs of instruction were modified and as of 1 October 2009, they were both extended to 32 weeks of training and have the exact same course content.

MOS 255A will be the Army's premier cyberspace content technician. They will be charged with establishing and maintaining the ability to collect, process, store, secure, search for and discover, retrieve, and disseminate information utilizing the application layer environment of the Army's portion of the cyberspace domain; they enable information dissemination management/content staging (IDM/CS) in order to perform the required information management/knowledge management (IM/KM) functions supporting combat information superiority and decision dominance. In short, the 255A will own cyberspace content management (CyCM). See the article entitled "The Army's expert cyberspace content technician - MOS 255A" for a more in-depth understanding of this new MOS.

Conclusion

Although WO1 Tysall stands above many of her peers, she is indicative of the level of professionalism, leadership, and technical expertise our newest WO1s bring to the fight. While we have always had some candidates assessed earlier in their career as well as some a little later, the average Signal warrant officer accessions candidate is a staff sergeant with 10 years Active federal service.

When it comes to leadership, commanders should look at newly appointed warrant officers similarly to newly appointed lieutenants. However, in areas of general military leadership, knowledge, and technical abilities, commanders should remember that these new WO1s are prior enlisted NCOs. As such, commanders should mentor them in their new officer roles as they would a second lieutenant, but expect great things from them in technical and tactical relevance. 

ACRONYM QuickScan

ATRRS - Army Training Requirements and Resources System
CFH - CENTCOM Forward Headquarters
COMSEC - Communications Security
CyCM - Cyberspace Content Management
DIAS - Distributed INFOSEC Accounting System

GCCS - Global Command and Control Systems
IDM/CS - Information Dissemination Management/Content Staging
IM/KM - Information Management/Knowledge Management
MEDPROS - Medical Protection System
MOS - Military Occupational

Specialty
NCO - Noncommissioned Officer
NCOIC - Noncommissioned Officer in Charge
HHC - Headquarters Company
USAREUR - U.S. Army Europe
USCENTCOM - U.S. Army Central Command
WOCS - Warrant Officer Candidate School