

5 Questions with: Bob Fravel

By Thomas Zimmerman 01 August 2018



Bob Fravel, Supervisor, Operations Section, Military Personnel Services Division, at Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah.

A new Carlisle Barracks web series will highlight the hard working men and women who work here, supporting the Army, servicemembers, employees, retirees and their families.

Bob Fravel, Supervisor, Operations Section, Military Personnel Services Division

What brought you into the Army family?

It was a number of things: I had a strong desire to be in the military from a very young age and to serve the country that I love so much. My patriotism

was instilled in me by my parents and grandparents. As a teenager, I idolized a number of my uncles who were veterans from the various branches of service. The organizational structure, leadership and discipline and the opportunity to develop those traits in myself were a big draw for me.

What drew you to Carlisle Barracks?

As a teenager, my dad's job brought us to Carlisle. He served as the senior pastor at Allison United Methodist Church on the campus of Dickinson College. I spent a lot of time playing basketball in Thorpe Gym on hot summer days and graduated from Carlisle Area High School. I fell in love with the town and its residents and have kept in touch with a lot of friends from here over the past thirty-five years. After my wife and I both retired from the Army out of Fort Bragg a few years ago, we decided to relocate to this area with our two boys for a number of reasons. We felt it was a much better environment to raise a family; the job opportunities for us have been wonderful and it allows us to be closer to my aging parents and assist them whenever they need our help. Oh and I love the four seasons and weather in Pennsylvania as opposed to North Carolina.

What are your duties/responsibilities here?

It's great; I get to do the same work that I did as a Soldier for twenty years. I work in the Military Personnel Division and oversee three sections: Personnel Actions & Passports, DEERS & ID Cards and Reassignments. I'm fortunate to be member of a great team of professionals that do their absolute best to take care of Soldiers, civilians, Family members and retirees each and every day. I couldn't ask for a better place to work.

What's the most rewarding part of your service over the years?

The personal pride and satisfaction I get from serving my country. It might sound corny and cliché but it's true. That and all of the great places I was stationed and the fantastic friends and people I met over the years.

What's your favorite thing to do here?

For the first time in my life, I finally have a permanent home and place to live. My two favorite things are providing plenty of opportunities and activities for our two boys to experience and enjoy and making improvements to our house and property when time permits.
