

NCOs continue to serve

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NCOs continue to serve after taking off the uniform

May 26, 2009 – "I will be loyal to those with whom I serve; seniors, peers, and subordinates alike. I will exercise initiative by taking appropriate action in the absence of orders. I will not compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage."

These words, taken from the Army NCO Creed, still reverberate with those who have served long after they have taken off the uniform and transitioned into the civilian work place.

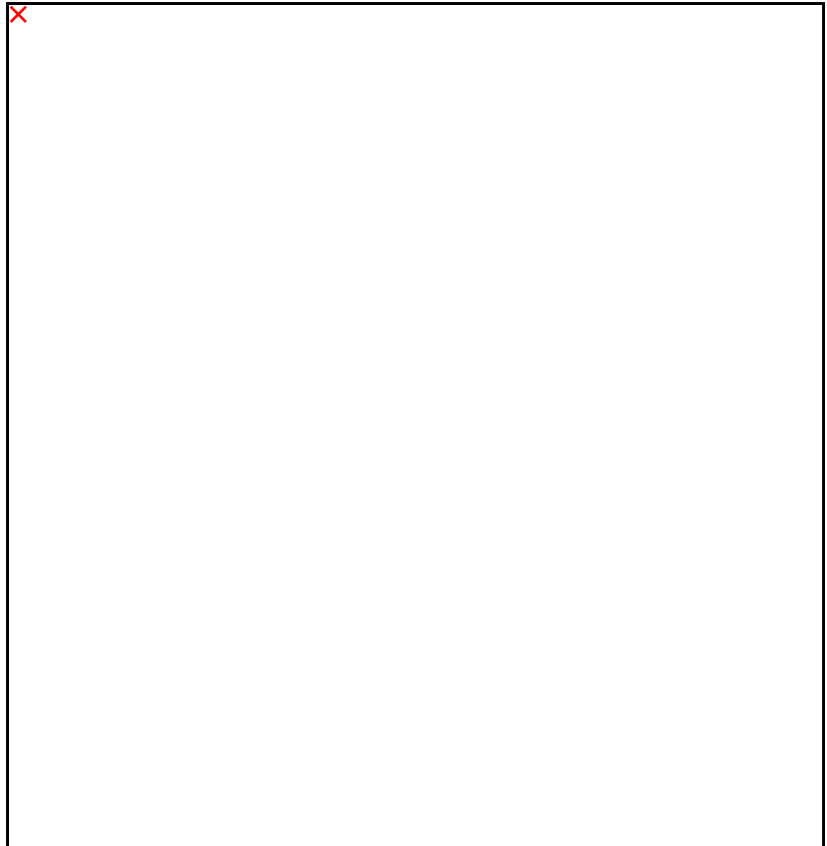
Former Staff Sgt. Romaine Leake, transitioned while stationed at Carlisle Barracks, described his decision to support the country and the military as a civilian instead of a Soldier.

"I was the biggest Army advocate on the base. I took every Soldier I could find under my wing. I counseled, trained, prepped for promotion and worked to retain those who wanted to get out," he said. "Everyone was surprised by my decision to end my career, but it was what was best for my family."

Family was an important factor for another Soldier, Sgt. George Frame, as he made the decision to move into the civilian world.

"I enlisted almost six years ago for the guarantee of a stable job. Now, I need a different kind of stability," he said. "I have a family to think about. I want my kids to grow up in a stable environment, without picking up and moving every couple years."

"It wasn't an easy decision," Frame said. "I had to weigh the pros and cons of everything. Luckily, I was able to



land a position here on base."

Frame recently moved from Anne Ely Hall to Upton Hall working in the Department of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security.

"I am very happy to be staying here. The people at Carlisle Barracks are the best part, and it's great to be able to still see everyone I've worked with and become friends with while I've been here," he said.

Carlisle Barracks offers several services for transitioning Soldiers. Frame received assistance from Army Community Service to find and prepare for finding a job.

"They helped me a lot – from books with a ton of information to creating a federal resume. They helped with the whole process," Frame said.

Leake also described the transition process.

"I was blessed with the opportunity to be a part of CSL's military to civilian conversion," he said. "I loved the job I was doing here at Carlisle. Now, I am still involved with the Army and work with an organization of people that I love."

"I rolled right back into the same seat I sat in as an NCO weeks before, and basically continued to operate as Staff Sgt. Leake until everyone got accustomed to it. It was a very smooth transition," he continued.

Both Soldiers were well-received as they shifted from military to civilian leadership roles.

"Most people were very supportive as I went through this. There were some people that feel I should have continued my career in the Army. Most were happy for me though, and everyone in Upton Hall has welcomed me with open arms," Frame said.

"The Army really prepared me for the position I'm in now," Frame said. "I have the drive to take care of Soldiers and civilians, and I am going to do my best to help anyone who needs assistance."

Leake echoed his thoughts on using Army-learned skills in his civilian career.

"I was fortunate enough early in my career to see good and bad leadership in the NCO Corps, so I felt I knew what the Soldiers and the Army needed," he said. "I felt there weren't enough of the good ones around the Soldiers I was leading, so I really stepped up, and I'm still using those skills as a civilian."

"After doing 6 years of field work and working until the job was done to standard," he continued, "I was more than ready to bring that work ethic into the civilian world."

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