

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

MAJ Dave Welteroth

TITLE: Budget Officer / Reserve Component Automation Systems (RCAS) Product Office

HOW LONG AT PEO EIS: 1.5 years

EDUCATION: Bronze Star Medal (x1), Meritorious Service Medal (x2)
BSEE Penn State



1. WHAT DO YOU DO AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO THE SOLDIER?

We conduct programming and budget execution for RCAS by translating the RCAS product requirements for the future years defense plan into funding requirements and executing programmed funding according to product office requirements. Simply stated, we make sure the product office has the funding needed to deliver RCAS capabilities to the Army's Reserve Components and that the funding is executed in accordance with fiscal law.

2. WHAT LED YOU TO A CAREER WITH THE ARMY?

I started my military career with the Navy, enlisting during my high school senior year. While I enjoyed my enlistment and my three years in Hawaii, I thought that the Army would offer more exciting opportunities. After my Navy enlistment contract ended, I decided to join the Pennsylvania Army National Guard while attending Penn State University. Seventeen years later, I know I made the right choice.

3. WHICH BRANCH DID YOUR PARENT/GUARDIAN SERVE AND WHAT DID THEY DO?

My father served in the Army from 1967 until 1986 as an infantryman. During his career he completed two tours in Vietnam, trained the Saudi Arabian Army on the TOW system, and served as a Drill Sergeant for Basic Training at Fort Benning, Georgia. He completed his career as a First Sergeant in Fort Dix, New Jersey before suffering from a case of pneumonia that required major surgery and forced him to retire.

4. GROWING UP AS A MILITARY CHILD, YOU HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE IN DIFFERENT PLACES. WHICH WAS YOUR FAVORITE?

I was born in Hawaii while my father was stationed there. Unfortunately, he PCS'd when I was two, so I didn't have an opportunity to enjoy it while I was a child. His other duty stations included Washington State, Texas, Colorado, Georgia, and New Jersey. Of those, Colorado was my favorite because of the proximity to mountains and the numerous opportunities for hiking, and fishing.

5. HOW DID GROWING UP AS A MILITARY CHILD SHAPE YOU INTO WHO YOU ARE TODAY?

As a military child, I moved often and had to adapt quickly to new environments. That experience has made me comfortable with change. Growing up surrounded by patriotic symbols and ceremonies instilled a heightened sense of gratitude for the service of previous generations and the legacy that we inherit from them.