

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY SPOTLIGHT

Ms. Deidra McCaskill

TITLE: Project Officer Unified Capabilities, PD EC2M

HOW LONG AT PEO EIS: Six years

AWARDS / EDUCATION / OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS TO NOTE: **Awards:** Department of the Army, Commander's Award for Civilian Service, April 2014 / Achievement Award for Outstanding Performance, July, 2009 / Achievement Award for Outstanding Performance, August 2008 / Special Act or Service Award, Exceptional Accomplishment of Duties, May 2007 / Special Act or Service, Exceptional Accomplishment of Duties, April 2006 / Special Act or Service Award, Exceptional Accomplishments of Duties, Jul 2005 / Achievement Award for Exceptional Accomplishment of Duties, Jul 2005 / Achievement Award of Outstanding Performance, March 2004 / Achievement Award for Exceptional Accomplishment of Duties, August 2003 / Joint Meritorious Unit Award, October 2002 / Special Act or Service Award, Exceptional Accomplishment of Duties, June 2002 / On-The-Spot Award, Extraordinary Contributions to the Division, December 2001. **Education:** Masters, Telecommunications, George Mason University / BS, Management, Park University / AA, Liberal Studies, Florida State University



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

I am the Project Officer for Unified Capabilities (UC), responsible for the acquisition of services that will provide collaboration capabilities such as voice (Soft Phone), video, IM/Chat, presence, and desktop screen sharing to more than one million Army users. UC will provide the Soldier with a single, common user experience that will facilitate the transmission of information to the warfighter. These capabilities will enable the Soldier to more effectively and efficiently conduct day to day business activities.

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

I joined the military directly after completing high school. This was a very important decision in my life and I understood that this decision would forever change the trajectory of my life. Therefore I didn't make this choice without exceptional considerations. There were numerous reasons why I chose to join the military, which included travel, to gain life experience, education assistance, as well as to serve my country. Approximately six years ago, my life's path led me to a career with the Army. During my career with the Army I have gained invaluable job experience and training, met excellent leaders, and acquired lifelong friendships. It has been quite an experience and one that I will always cherish.

3. WHO WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR MENTOR AND WHY?

My mother has always been my mentor both professionally and personally. My mother was successful and directed me toward the same path. Her guidance has always been unbiased, consistent, and well appreciated. She taught me to expend all of my energy doing the very best that I could, and when I think I have done all I can, used all that I had - then dig a little deeper. My mother instilled in me the value of education and with education comes opportunities. I will always cherish her and the outstanding advice she provided to me in all aspects of life.

4. MOTTO OR FAVORITE QUOTE?

"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed." -- Booker T. Washington

5. ADVICE TO THE NEXT GENERATION OF WOMEN?

Women are continuing to break the proverbial glass ceiling in all aspects of life. There is nothing that women cannot strive for, cannot achieve, or cannot accomplish. Some of our limitations are within ourselves, so we must also work on breaking those internal barriers that limit us. Be strong, be kind, and always do what's right - regardless of what's popular.