

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY SPOTLIGHT

Ms. Sarah Bearden

TITLE: Chief, Business Management Division Reserve
Component Automation Systems (RCAS)

HOW LONG AT PEO EIS: Three years, 6 months

AWARDS / EDUCATION / OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS TO NOTE:
Commander's Award for Civilian Service (4), Senior Civilian of the
Quarter; **Education:** Master of Business Administration, Bachelor of Science,
in Psychology/ Business Financial Management Level III Certification,
Program Management Level I Certification, DFMCP3, CDFM-A



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

The RCAS mission is to sustain and modernize automated information systems that enhance the Reserve Component's ability to achieve and sustain critical automation interoperability and accomplish unit mobilization planning, training, day-to-day operations, communications, and administration. As the Chief of Business Management for RCAS, I am responsible for ensuring that RCAS is resourced to maximize mission accomplishment, all contracts and financial transactions are managed within statutes, regulations and policies, and that all external and internal reporting requirements are addressed. This ensures that RCAS products and services will be available to the Soldiers we serve in the Army's Reserve Component.

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

I joined the Army right after high school and immediately fell in love with serving my country. I was a military pay technician and loved having the ability to help other Soldiers. I knew from those first few years on active duty that I would maintain a career that would allow me to continue to provide support to the Department of Defense.

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

I am very lucky to have had the opportunity to cross paths with a variety of mentors, each of whom have taught me invaluable lessons I carry with me today. SFC (R) Cynthia Outlaw and Mr. Douglas Whitney have played massive roles in shaping who I am today. Both individuals taught me to constantly challenge myself and to shoot for the stars. There were definitely instances where I was hesitant but each helped me understand that fear is irrational and can always be overcome. They gave me space to learn and always were around to help when I stumbled.

4. MOTTO OR FAVORITE QUOTE?

I have two: "A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new." –Albert Einstein and "Be the change you wish to see in the world." –Mahatma Gandhi

5. ADVICE TO THE NEXT GENERATION OF WOMEN?

Never be afraid to follow your dreams. Set goals both big and small and takes actions on a daily basis that will assist you in achieving these goals. Always maintain your integrity and be kind to all. Remember, we are the leaders of today and it is our responsibility to serve as role models to the next generation of leaders.