

# WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY SPOTLIGHT

## Ms. Sheila M. Ollison

**TITLE:** Acquisition Management Specialist/COR, PM I3MP

**HOW LONG AT PEO EIS:** One year, three months

**AWARDS / EDUCATION / OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS TO NOTE:** *Awards: (Military)* U.S. Army: Meritorious Service Medal (2nd), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (5th), Army Achievement Medal (7th), National Defense Service Medal (2nd), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal w/Bronze Service Star (3rd), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal w/Campaign Star, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (2nd), Army Service Ribbon (2nd), Overseas Service Ribbon (2nd), Kuwait Liberation Medal, and Parachutist Badge; *Education:* Park University – BS Management; Webster University Dual Degree – MA in Procurement & Acquisition Management and Master Business Administration; Villanova University – Master Certificate in Government & Commercial Contract Management. Currently enrolled in the Doctor of Business Administration at California Southern University.



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

I am an Army Officer of 22 years serving as a civilian acquisition professional. I am charged with assisting in the development of IT system capabilities deployed to the warfighter. One of my important roles as an Acquisition Management Specialist is to determine the best contracting options, recommend the appropriate contract type that poses the least risk on the Government; but also provides the best value, and employ contract methods to apply to a given project through internal and external market research.

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

I grew up in an environment where many generations of family members served across various military services. There was never a doubt that I would serve to some extent in the military. My grandparents and uncles reinforced and sustained the importance of becoming a member of the armed services. Their stories and shared experiences consumed me. I wanted to be one! I was fascinated with wearing the uniform, traveling to different parts of the world and gaining a deeper understanding of what it was really like to be an American soldier. While attending my first year of college, I decided that I would take a trip to the local recruiting office. Needless to say, the rest was history.

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

My indirect mentor and role model is Condoleezza Rice, former U.S. Secretary of State, who I have followed and studied since I was a teenager. Her qualities, demonstrated leadership, selfless service, commitment to her country, and professionalism as a woman are attributes that I seek to emulate. I have studied her speeches and books to assist me throughout my career professionally and personally.

### 4. MOTTO OR FAVORITE QUOTE?

My favorite quote is "What you know today can affect what you do tomorrow. But what you know today cannot affect what you did yesterday," by Condoleezza Rice. This first quote hits home because we live in an environment where change happens daily whether it is technological, organizational, process oriented, or regulatory, just to name a few. Diversity in knowledge is important in my organization and to me.

### 5. ADVICE TO THE NEXT GENERATION OF WOMEN?

"All you do, every day, do it with the next generation in mind," is the advice that I would give for the next generation of all women, whether starting a career in the civilian or military sector. Taking the long view requires each of us to look beyond self and express care for someone besides yourself. Take time to build a life from the inside out so that you are able and prepared to meet the individual and professional challenges that are sure to come.