

ASIAN-AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

Sajjan (Saj) George

TITLE: Acting Product Lead, Reserve Component Automation Systems

TOTAL YEARS OF ARMY/FEDERAL SERVICE: 23 years

HOW LONG AT PEO EIS: Two years Military, 18 months Civilian

AWARDS / EDUCATION / OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS TO NOTE: Bachelor of Science, Electronics and Communication Engineering; MBA, Finance; Federal CIO and CFO Certificates; Army Cost Mgt Certificate; PM Level III Certificate. Key Military Awards include Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal and Army Commendation Medal. ARNG military recipient of the 2010 Military Meritorious Service Award from the Federal Asian Pacific American Council.



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

As a member of the Reserve Component Automation Systems (RCAS), I support the implementation of the software application enhancement/maintenance and IT hardware refresh for all 54 states and territories of the Army National Guard (ARNG) and units of the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR), based on strategic guidance from the ARNG and USAR leadership. RCAS' software functionalities and hardware meet the latest compliance requirements, allowing Reserve Component Units and Soldiers with administrative tasks in Mobilization, Readiness, Personnel, Force Authorization and Safety and Occupational Health to do their jobs better, and will eventually lead to a faster readiness posture in support of the Nation.

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

I immigrated to the U.S. in mid-1991. It was a television commercial of Soldiers jumping out of helicopters and doing "hooah" stuff that led me to make a phone call to the number on the screen; at that time, I did not know the difference between the different components in the Army – I just wanted to find out how I could be part of the action. It happened to be an ARNG advertisement, and when I told the recruiter that I was an engineer, he forwarded me to an Engineer Battalion where I joined as a Petroleum Supply Specialist (77F) in mid-1992. Soon I went to Officer Candidate School with a waiver for being a non-US citizen, and took my commission as an Officer in October 1995. I was truly lucky to have some great mentors in my military life, and if not for all of them and a purpose from Higher, I wouldn't be where I am now.

3. WHO WERE YOUR MENTORS OR HEROES?

My mentors were many – from a 50-year old Specialist (E4) in the Maryland Army National Guard when I was going through OCS, to Senior Leaders along the way. I was quite disorganized and had a flamboyant lifestyle in India. I owe it to my mentors in the military, from the time I was a Private First Class working at the State Headquarters of the Maryland ARNG, for the organization, discipline, structure and values in my life; I learned something valuable from all of my mentors. My parents are my heroes, but I was never been able to live up to their standards while I was in India; now they are proud of me.

4. MOTTO OR FAVORITE QUOTE?

A couple of quotes that I picked up over the years resonate within me still: (i) A purported quote from Andrew Jackson, the 7th President of US: *"One man with Courage makes a Majority"* (ii) *"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail"*

5. ADVICE TO THE NEXT GENERATION?

Learn to take responsibility and accountability for your actions. Never look at ethics as an afterthought. Be honest with yourself and others – sometimes it may bring temporary hardship/feelings but that will pay you back 100 fold as you move forward in life. Do not be afraid to voice your opinions if you have thought it through – but don't surprise your boss and teammates in front of others when you do that. Borrowing a quote from Gandhi, "Honest disagreement is a good sign of progress"... so do not take any disagreements in a personal way. Be the change agent to bring about a cultural shift in a positive way. If you regularly dread going to work Monday on Sunday evenings, look for another position or organization which fits you better, because your unhappiness will show through in your work, and that unhappiness will rub off on your teammates.

**WALK TOGETHER,
EMBRACE DIFFERENCES,
BUILD LEGACIES**

