



**Age:** 40

**Hometown:** Shreveport, LA

**Rank:** Staff Sergeant

**Military Service:**

2001 to Present

**EDUCATION:**

MBA in Marketing - Freeman School of Business, Tulane University (2009)

Bachelor of Science in Business Management - Southern University and A&M College (1999)

**MILITARY EXPERIENCE**

156th Army Band, Louisiana National Guard

- Activated to assist in disaster relief efforts for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (2005)
- Activated to assist in disaster relief efforts for Hurricanes Ike and Gustav (2008)
- Deployed to Baghdad, Iraq in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn (2010)
- Activated to assist in disaster relief efforts for Hurricane Isaac (2012)

Certifications:

- Master Resiliency Trainer (MRT)
- Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR)

<p><b>Tell us a fun fact about you:</b></p>	<p>I love trivia and am a big Jeopardy fan!</p>
<p><b>Why did you join the military:</b></p>	<p>I joined the military to play in the band, but I've done that and much more. I was at a crossroads in my life and felt like it was now or never. Lucky for me, the band for the state was based out of my hometown. I had been a musician in high school and college and needed a way to continue. I called the unit and asked about the audition process and the rest is history.</p>
<p><b>What is the greatest single lesson you learned from your Military Service?</b></p>	<p>That it doesn't take much to serve in a large capacity. Many of today's servicemen and women are young and inexperienced, but somehow - through great training by NCOs and senior leadership - they have taken the challenge of defending freedom and have done a grand job at it.</p>
<p><b>Why did you apply for the Veterans Accelerated Management Program?</b></p>	<p>Reintegration. When I finished my MBA in 2009, the opportunities weren't as plentiful due to the recession. Six months after graduating, I was preparing to deploy, so I didn't have the experience that most MBAs have fresh out of grad school. I am hoping the VAMP will reintegrate me into that world and help me establish key relationships that will lead to the career path that I've long desired.</p>
<p><b>What do you hope to accomplish in the next chapter of your life, both professionally and personally?</b></p>	<p>I've always envisioned myself as a senior level executive in a large corporation, and I am continuously striving toward this goal. I have the education, but I need to acquire the experience to set this plan in motion. I am hoping that the relationships established through the VAMP will be instrumental in allowing me to achieve this dream.</p>
<p><b>What would you tell today's American public about our nation's Veterans transitioning out of the military?</b></p>	<p>Veterans are a unique population that you can't just group in a box. There is no population that is more diverse than the veteran population. While it is important to recognize that we need job opportunities and provide them, it's also important to note that the population doesn't just consist of truck drivers, mechanics, infantrymen, etc. There are lot of veterans in need of corporate/management type roles and they aren't readily available just yet.</p>