

Carlee Miller

NSU Veterans' School Certifying Official

NSU Registrar's Office

U.S. Army National Guard

Ranks

I started out as a PFC (Private First Class) because of my amount of college education and was promoted to SPC (Specialist) before my deployment to Bosnia in support of SFOR14. I went to WLC (Warrior Leader Course) before being deployed to Kuwait as a Sergeant.

Entered Active Service

May 2001

Date of Separation

May 2009

Why did you join the military?

I was looking for a way to finish paying for my bachelor's degree and I thought the National Guard would be a good way for me to serve my state and get some help paying for school.

Describe your service:

I served all eight years of my contract with the same personnel support detachment out of Roseville, Minn. During those eight years, I spent nearly three on active duty, either for training or on deployments.

For NATO peacekeeping in Bosnia, I was stationed at Eagle Base, near Tuzla, for nine months. For OEF/OIF support, I was stationed at Camp Buehring in northern Kuwait for nine months.



Highlights of your military career

Basic training and AIT got my start in service off to a good start when I achieved a score of 100% in AIT and scored 90 or more points in each physical fitness test element. The achievement allowed me to receive the Regimental Medal of Honor. I was also deeply touched that I was voted by my classmates as the soldier who most embodied the seven Army values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless-Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage.



The commander that my unit had in Bosnia was a prior-service sailor. He had quite the sense of humor. To keep things interesting and unit morale up, he invented a thing called "Unit Points". Anyone could nominate anyone in the unit to receive unit points for doing something good or going above and beyond. Every month, the unit points would be tallied and the soldier with the most points was awarded and Certificate of Mischievement. It was so called, because many times unit points were awarded for silly things such as holding the door for someone or giving the crispest salute to officers. I received this "honor" one month and to this day, the award write-up still makes me laugh. Our commander really did keep our spirits up!



How does your military experience influence your work at NSU?

I feel like my time and experience as a personnel services specialist in the National Guard very aptly prepared me for this new role at NSU as the Certifying Official. I was already familiar with military education benefits and how the VA works and the amount of paperwork and persistence that is sometimes needed. Also, having at least an idea of what student soldiers experience will hopefully help me to become an even better resource for them.

Were you a student veteran?

No

What are possible advantages to being a student veteran at NSU?

I think military service, especially the overseas variety, helps to open students' minds and see how what they have learned and are learning can relate to the real, global world.

What are potential challenges a student veteran might encounter at NSU?

As a trained soldier, discipline, initiative and responsibility has been instilled in them. They may feel that some students may not display the same values and feel frustrated.

Why might NSU be a good choice for a student veteran?

For a smaller university, NSU has strong community support and a good number of service members taking classes. I believe that NSU and Aberdeen have a strong sense of appreciation and support for current and prior-service military members and their families.

Your message to veteran or active duty students or prospective students:

Hooah!