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Officers, enlisted people are equally important

Eric Nelson

Specialist Eric Nelson has been serving in the U.S. Army Military Police Reserves for five years. He expects to be deployed to Kuwait within a month.

His wife is the former Gina Klima, daughter of Rick and Deb Klima of Oberlin. The Nelsons and their daughter, Elyssa, live at Fort Worth.

His military address is Spec. Eric Nelson, 341st MPCO, Fort Lewis, Wash.



Eric Nelson

Jade L. Orr

Sgt. Jade L. Orr is stationed in Alaska. He joined the Air Force in 1994 after graduating from high school in Phoenix, Ariz.

He was stationed in Guam from 1994-1995 and 1998-2002. From 1996 to 1997, he was stationed in Turkey. He served in Afghanistan for over three months. He serves as a load inspector and plans to make the military his career.

His parents are Gary and Sarah Orr, Oberlin, and Linda Pope, Turpin, Okla. He has two brothers, Gary D. Orr and wife, Tracy, and David Orr, a senior at Decatur Community High School, and a sister, Elisabeth, all of Oberlin.

His family said, "We are proud of him."



Jade Orr

Preston Pelkey

Sgt. Preston Pelkey is serving with the 346th Military Police Company and is a veteran of Desert Storm, where he was nominated for a Purple Heart. He received a Bronze Star for his outstanding work.

He has been serving in the U.S. Army since 1989 as a military policeman and has been to 23 countries. He has been actively involved in operations Just Cause, Desert Storm, Team Spirit in South Korea, Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

He is now stationed in Fort Riley, waiting further deployment to Operation Freedom Iraqi.

He is the son of Jeanie Pelkey of Norcatum and the late Don Pelkey. He is married to Kim and they have three children, Kayla, Laycie and Cody. They also have a granddaughter, Halley. The Pelkeys live in Hutchinson.



P. Pelkey

Donald B. Ray

Quartermaster 1st Class Donald B. Ray, husband of Julia (McChesney) Ray, of Oberlin, entered the Navy in August 1977.

He has been on active duty for 14 years, nine months, and in the Reserves for three years, three months.

He was called back to active duty on Sept. 19, 2002, with orders for one year. However, it could be extended for two, according to his wife. He is stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in security.

He has served on the USS Oliver Hazard Perry, Great Lakes Cruise; USS Reasoner cruiser; USS William H. Standley cruiser, USNS Kawishiwi, an oiler used to refill other ships at sea; USS Jouett cruiser; USS Jarrett, which was behind the USS Missouri during Desert Storm.

During his service, he has traveled the Hawaii, Japan, the Philippines; Singapore; Africa; Australia; Kuwait; Bosnia; Korea; Virgin Islands; Mexico and all United States coasts.

He took his exam for chief in January, but has not learned the results as yet. While on the ships, he was division officer in communications, and junior officer of the deck and navigation-charted the ship's courses.

In March, his wife and her two older children, visited him at Pearl Harbor.

They visited the Pearl Harbor Memorial of the USS Arizona and toured the USS Missouri battleship.

Their two younger boys, Jessup, 18 months, and Adric, 5 months, stayed with Brad and Deanna Williams of Herndon while they were gone.

Quartermaster Ray is from Madison, Neb., and is the son of Don and Patsy Ray of Madison. His wife's grandmother is Marie McChesney, Oberlin. He is employed by Sappa Valley Youth Ranch and the Naval Reserve Center of Denver.

Valerie Perrin

Senior Airman Valerie K. Perrin graduated from Decatur Community High School in 1997. She joined the U.S. Air Force in March 2000 and took her basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

After basic, she was sent to Fort Worth, where she began training as crew chief of the F-15 fighter jet.

In November 2000, she was sent to Okinawa, Japan, where she spent the next two years stationed at Kadena Air Base. She returned home in November and is stationed at Seymour Johnson Air Base at Goldsboro, N.C. She has volunteered to go to Kuwait, but has not been deployed as yet.

She is the daughter of Willard and Tina Perrin of Oberlin. Her address is Valerie K. Perrin, 901 D. Rosewood Rd., Goldsboro, NC 27530.

