

This week's veteran is Joshua Mills.

Josh was raised in Assumption, Illinois, the son of Jerry and Edi Mills. He enlisted in the Air Force after graduation in June of 1985 and left for basic training at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), Texas, in January 1986.

He will retire from the Air Force effective 1 September 2014 as a Chief Master Sergeant after serving for more than 28 years.

Upon completing technical training as a Diet Therapy Technician at Sheppard AFB, Texas, he was assigned to the Sheppard AFB Regional Hospital, Wichita Falls, Texas, to work in the hospital dining facility.

In June 1989, Josh was cross trained into the Medical Materiel career field and continued to work at the Sheppard AFB Hospital until being reassigned to the 48th Medical Support Squadron, RAF, Lakenheath, United Kingdom, in October 1991.

During this period, Josh was deployed to Operation PROVIDE PROMISE where he served a six month tour at Camp Pleso, Croatia, assigned to the 48th Air Transportable Hospital in support of United Nations troops deployed in the region for operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the Yugoslav Wars.

In October of 1995, Josh applied for a special duty assignment to the School of Healthcare Sciences, Sheppard AFB, Texas, where he was accepted and served as a Technical Training Instructor for the Medical Materiel career field and later became the Instructor Supervisor of the course.

He was selected for promotion to Master Sergeant in 2000, and in October of that year, Josh was reassigned to the 609th Air Support Squadron Detachment 3, Muscat, Oman, as the Medical Logistics Manager for the Southwest Asia Prepositioned War Reserve Materiel Program where he supported set-up of forward operating bases in Afghanistan and Iraq after the terrorists attacks of September 11, 2001.

Josh was reassigned to Offutt AFB in Omaha, Nebraska, where he was the Noncommissioned officer in Charge of Medical Materiel at the 55th Medical Support Squadron. He deployed twice to Southwest Asia in 2004 and 2005 in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. His deployments included tours as the Senior Air Force Liaison at the U. S. Army Medical Materiel Center, Southwest Asia, and then executing theater medical logistics for the Combined Air Operations Center. During his last deployment, he had the pleasure of serving alongside another Assumption native in Southwest Asia, Senior Master Sergeant Curt Fouts.

Upon returning from deployment in 2006, Josh received orders to Yokota Air Base (AB) in Tokyo, Japan. While stationed there he received the 2008 United States Air Force Outstanding Medical Materiel Senior Noncommissioned Officer (SNCO) and the 347th Airlift Wing SNCO Awards.

Josh was promoted to the ranks of Senior Master Sergeant and Chief Master Sergeant, the highest noncommissioned officer rank in the U. S. Air Force. This promotion drove a reassignment to Ramstein AB, Germany, where he served as the Chief for the United States Air Forces in Europe Medical Readiness office from 2010 to 2013. During this time, Josh provided medical logistics support to Operations ODYSSEY DAWN, JUKEBOX LOTUS and JUNIPER MICRON.

Josh and his family returned to the United States after serving seven years overseas in April 2013 for his last assignment to Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, Lackland AFB, Texas as the Superintendent of Medical Logistics.

Josh married the former Nanette McKenney of Houston, Texas, on 10 October 1992. They have three children, Brittany, Rachel, and Seth. They plan to live in Wichita Falls, Texas, upon retirement.

Josh awards and Decorations include: Meritorious Service Medal (3 oak leaf clusters), Air Force Commendation Medal (3 oak leaf clusters), Air Force Achievement Medal (2 oak leaf clusters), and Army Achievement Medal.

Thank you, Chief Master Sergeant Joshua Mills, for what you gave for us and sharing your story.