

Porter always wanted to serve in military

By **DANA ELISE SMITH**
Camp Shelby Public Affairs

PERSONNEL PROFILE OFFICER

2nd Lt. Frank Porter is from Brandon.

He is currently assigned to both Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center and Joint Force Headquarters as a staff specialist and chaplain candidate for week-end drills and Annual Training.

Porter's duties entail speaking with Soldiers about any spiritual concerns they have, as well as informing the Family about organizations like the Red Cross and Military One Source. He also aids in processing Soldiers by recording their religious preferences.

Porter was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the Mississippi National Guard on July 6.

"I always wanted to serve in the military," said Porter. "Military service is part of my Family histo-

ry."

He chose the National Guard particularly because he felt it was a "tremendous opportunity" to serve his country as well as his state.

Porter graduated from Immanuel High School in Columbus, Miss. in 1991. Later, he attended the now co-ed Mississippi University for Women in Columbus where he earned a Bachelor's degree in music in 1997. He acquired his Masters of Music Education in 2006 from Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss.

Although most of his main con-

centrations of study were vocal performance and music education, his current civilian occupation and education is centered on ministry. He is now currently enrolled in Memphis Theological Seminary in Memphis, and pursuing a Master's of Divinity. His civilian occupation is that of an Associate Pastor and Youth Director at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Brandon.

"It was God's calling. We joke and say God works in mysterious ways but it's true. Music has always been a big part of ministry, but that's not where God wanted me," he said.

Porter enjoyed his Annual Training this year because it gave him some "on the job experience" as an Army Chaplain.

"I looked forward to my training as an Army chaplain in order to make me better in my ministry in the church. As a chaplain, I look forward to providing religious support, to be a resource to the Soldier, to the unit and the whole chain of command - to be someone comfortable to share issues and concerns they may have and to know they won't be judged and condemned."

He spends most of his spare time with his family and his dog. He has been married to Emily Porter for five years. Together they have two sons; Caden Porter, 4 and Grayson Porter, 2.

He said he tries to volunteer at local community organizations as often as possible.



2nd Lt. Frank Porter

"One of my passions in ministry is challenging folks to give back and pay it forward. My youth group and I do a lot of volunteering with the Good Samaritan Center in Jackson and with Habitat for Humanity," said Porter.

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Soldier's passion is to have 'Pheasants Forever'

Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Fiedler Jr. is from Dubuque, Iowa, a land rich in wildlife.

In his hometown, he is an active member in an association for hunters who advocate for wildlife conservation, particularly the pheasant. This association is called "Pheasants Forever."

"Like a lot of Soldiers (in the Iowa National Guard) I like to hunt and fish a lot. I do enjoy that immensely," Fiedler said.

Fiedler is now deployed with Alpha Company, 133rd, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th



Works to provide habitat for the pheasant and other upland game animals.

Infantry Division.

So far his military career has spanned over 28 years in the Army National Guard.

Before his mobilization, Fiedler held a full time position in the Iowa National Guard.

Fiedler confesses that he holds another passion besides a life in the military.

"One thing I do have a great passion for is the hunters association called Pheasants Forever. Our thing is to provide upland game, and upland bird, the pheasant, with habitat and food and try to enhance that. The population is down quite a bit, but there are times it rebounds sometimes when we give

it habitat. In with doing that, it helps other types of wildlife in the same sense," Fiedler said.

Fiedler was once the president of his local chapter.

He said he admires not only the organization but the bird itself.

"I also like to see them. If you have ever seen a pheasant out there in the wild, it's really a pretty, pretty bird," Fiedler said.

This association does more than just advocate habitat for animals. It also gives hunters and their children opportunities to get involved in outdoor recreation said Fiedler.

"It involves doing stuff outdoors with kids, and preserving our outdoor activities," said Fiedler.

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