



CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 5 DERRICK B. FRITTS

Air Missile Defense Tactician 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

CW5 Derrick B. Fritts assumed duty with the 164th Air Defense Artillery as the Senior Air Missile Defense Tactician Technician, on 1 February 2013.

Born in Dover New Jersey, CW5 Fritts moved to Cocoa, Florida at the age of seventeen, graduated from Titusville High School in 1985 and went into the Active Army on July 9, 1985. Enlisting as a Private, E-1 he attended Basic Training at Fort Bliss, Texas. Once his initial MOS training as a HAWK Missile Crewmember, 16D was completed, he was stationed in Baumholder, West Germany in December 1985 and was assigned to Delta Battery, 3^d Battalion, 59th Air Defense Artillery. That unit reorganized to the 4th Battalion, 1st Air Defense shortly after his arrival. CW5 Fritts was promoted to Specialist, E-4 after 13 months of active duty and he remained in Germany until April 11, 1988. That same year, in November, CW5 Fritts entered the National Guard and was assigned to Bravo Battery, 2^d Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, which at the time, was located in Orlando, Florida. This newly organized HAWK Missile Battery was relocated to Palm Bay, Florida in 1989 and relocated again in 1993 to West Palm Beach, Florida, where CW5 Fritts served continuously. CW5 Fritts was promoted to Sergeant, E-5 in 1989 and served as a HAWK Missile Section Chief, responsible for the MOS training of his platoon, as he was one of only six fully MOS qualified Soldiers at the time of his promotion. In 1991 he was promoted to Staff Sergeant, E-6 by his Battery Commander, then Captain James D. Tyre and was then assigned as a Platoon Sergeant. CW5 Fritts performed duties as a Platoon Sergeant until 1995, when he was appointed as a Warrant Officer Candidate. CW5 Fritts attended Warrant Officer Candidate School in August, 1995 and was appointed as a Warrant Officer, WO1, in September, 1995. CW5 Fritts was assigned as Platoon Leader of Bravo Battery, 2-265th ADA in February, 1996, after completing the HAWK Missile System Warrant Officer Technician Course, 140D, at Fort Bliss, Texas. Chief Fritts was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 2 in September 1997 and within that same year, the HAWK Missile System was phased out of the U.S. inventory and out of the National Guard, so CW5 Fritts was reclassified as a Maneuver Forces Air Defense Technician MOS, 918D. Chief Fritts was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 3 in January, 2004. Shortly after that promotion, Chief Fritts was mobilized for the National Capital Region-Integrated Air Defense System (NCR-IADS) mission, in support of Operation Noble Eagle and was assigned as the Electronic Missile System Technician to Florida's very first Battalion to conduct this mission. Chief Fritts was transferred to HHB, 164th ADA Brigade in September, 2005 after over 17 years in the same unit he served since his enlistment. He was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 4 in February, 2010 where he reclassified as an Air Missile Defense Tactician Technician.



CW5 Fritts is currently assigned as the Senior Air Missile Defense Tactician for the 164th ADA Brigade and has mobilized for the NCR-IADS mission, in support of Operation Noble Eagle and served with Task Force Iron Shield, Task Force Osprey, Task Force Gator, Task Force Knight, Task Force Artemis and Joint Task Force Archangel. He resides in Cocoa, Florida with his son, Devin, who served recently in the U.S. Army, as a Calvary Scout, and with his daughter Priscilla, who is currently attending college and studying to become a Nurse.

CW5 Fritts' awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Overseas Service Ribbon, Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, Coast Guard Special Operations Service Ribbon, Florida Distinguished Service Medal, Florida Commendation Medal, and the Florida Governor's Meritorious Unit Citation.