



# ***News Release***

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## **U.S. ARMY FIELD SUPPORT COMMAND**

***June 1, 2005***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **AFSC Hires First Employee Under the 'Always a Soldier' Program**

Rock Island, Ill. – Randy Morgan spent 25 years serving his county and, after a vehicle accident in Iraq, his military career came to an unexpected end...or so he thought.

As a member of 3rd Corps Support Command's Army Reserve unit in Des Moines, Morgan fought in Operations Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. His plan was to be a reservist until the day he retired, but in late April 2003 he experienced a life-altering change.

When the Humvee he was riding in hit a crater and went airborne, Morgan sustained injuries that kept him from continuing his service as a Soldier. As a result of the accident, his civilian career as a truck driver also came to an unexpected end.

Concerned for his and his family's future, the 48-year-old Morgan was left to find a new career. Unsure about what he could do, he visited the local Veteran's Affairs representative to find out what options were available to him as a veteran. That was when he found out about the Army Materiel Command's Always a Soldier Program.

The Always a Soldier Program helps wounded veterans find jobs within AMC. This program, initiated in 2004, has been implemented at AMC major subordinate commands and activities, one of which is the Army Field Support Command (AFSC). Veterans can now receive continued support beyond active duty service.

AFSC Always a Soldier program coordinator, Denise Brown-Winchell, believes that the program is "a great way to reach out to veterans in our community. This program provides service-connected disabled veterans opportunities for employment, career advancement, job mobility, family economic well-being and great financial security."

The hardest part about this program, Brown-Winchell said, is getting the word out to the wounded veterans. "We rely heavily on the help of veteran and employment agencies in Iowa and Illinois," she said. "The veteran representatives send us resumes; then we contact the veteran and help them find a job at AFSC. Their skills and qualifications are matched with the most suitable jobs.

"Our main focus under the Always a Soldier program is to support the wounded veterans in our community," she added. "We want them to realize that their sacrifice will not be forgotten."

As the first person hired by AFSC under the program, Morgan is excited to start a new career as a safety technician in the Safety and Radioactive Waste Office.

"I am so thankful for the Always a Soldier Program," Morgan said. "Everyone has been great, and I'm no longer concerned about how I am going to support my family. This is a tremendous way to support the veterans who have served our country."

For more information contact AFSC Always a Soldier Program at 309-782-0270 or go to [www.alwaysasoldier.com](http://www.alwaysasoldier.com) or [www.afsc.army.mil/hr/veterans/index.htm](http://www.afsc.army.mil/hr/veterans/index.htm) for application information.

“If we can make a difference for one wounded veteran, it’s worth it!” Brown-Winchell concluded.

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**Photo Outline:**

Col. Carl J. Cartwright, Deputy Commander of Army Field Support Command, swears in Randy Morgan, the first AFSC employee hired under the Always a Soldier Program. U.S. Army photo by Tony Lopez.