

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month, July 2008 Staff Sergeant Shonnelle L. Hightower

Staff Sergeant Shonnelle Hightower was born in Sikeston, Missouri, and graduated from Charleston (Missouri) High School in May 1999. She entered the US Army under the Delayed Entry Program in March 1999 and became active in July 1999. She did her Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina.

SSgt. Hightower's first assignment was 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years in Giebelstadt, Germany, with the 72^{nd} Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services), deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom I. Her job duties included ensuring the mail operations, daily status reports, evaluations, awards, promotions, personnel actions, military pay issues, leaves and passes for over 16 active duty and reserve units consisting of 400+ soldiers. She also served in the LSA Anaconda's security team.

SSgt. Hightower was "by-name selected" to serve as the Executive Administrative Assistant to the Command Sergeant Major of the 13th Corps Support Command and volunteered to deploy with them back to LSA Anaconda in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

With the Army's involvement with the recovery mission of Hurricane Katrina, SSgt. Hightower was in charge of the Command Sergeant Major's section of four NCOs and one soldier that deployed to New Orleans, Louisiana, during Joint Task Force (JTF) Katrina.

SSgt. Hightower is currently assigned to the Army Research Laboratory with duty at the Headquarters, US Army Materiel Command at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. She is serving as the Executive Administrative Assistant to the Commanding General.

Staff Sergeant Hightower has been the recipient of the following honors and citations:

- Army Commendation Medal (4th Award)
- Army Achievement medal (3rd Award)
- Army Good Conduct Medal (2nd Award)
- National Defense Service Medal
- Humanitarian Service Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
- Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (#2)
- Army Service Ribbon
- Overseas Service Ribbon (3)
- Driver's Badge

SSgt. Hightower is the proud mother of one son and is an active member of Word Alive! Ministry in Alexandria, Virginia. She is actively pursuing an Associate Degree from Gratham University, Kansas City, Missouri. She was recently married.

Annette Robertson and the members of King's Highway Chapter NSDAR proudly nominated Staff Sergeant Shonnelle Hightower as Patriot of the Month.