



VTC Band of Brothers and Sisters

Volume 2, Issue 1

About Us

4 August 2019

- Senior Mentor Introductions

DJ Reyes: Senior Mentor and Program Coordinator



DJ Reyes is a retired US Army Colonel with over 33 years of faithful service to our great Nation. Earning his bachelors, masters, and juris doctor degrees from the University of Notre Dame, the US Naval War College, and Temple University School of Law, DJ also commanded or served in primary staff positions in special forces / operations, military intelligence, infantry, airborne, air assault, Joint/Interagency, and Multi-National organizations. His combat and contingency deployments included tours in Iraq, Afghanistan, North Africa, Bosnia, Kosovo and Haiti. In addition to providing independent consulting for organizations supporting veterans, military families with special needs, and victims of human trafficking, DJ previously served as a DoD contractor assisting local FL veterans and their spouses with employment opportunities. DJ currently sits on advisory boards supporting the following: National Veterans Court Alliance (Washington DC); US Congresswoman Kathy Castor (D-FL 14th); US Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL 12th); and FL Department of the VA Executive Director Danny Burgess' "Forward March" Veteran Program Legal Sub-Committee. Finally, DJ devotes significant time and energy in his community service role as senior military advisor and mentor to the 13th Judicial Circuit's Veterans Treatment Court, or VTC. The VTC identifies those veterans in trouble with the law resulting from some disorder or disability incurred during military service, gets them the necessary medical treatment and therapies, helps in the rehabilitation process, and assists in successful reintegration back into the veterans' local communities.

DJ Reyes, Colonel, US Army (retired)

Andy Stephan: Task Force 'Alpha' Senior Mentor



Andrew Stephan is a Colonel in the Air Force Reserve. With over 28 years of service, he is currently serves as the 927 Air Refueling Wing Vice Commander, MacDill Air Force Base. His operational experience includes five major weapons systems: F16, HH60, KCI35, MQ9, MQ1; and expeditionary engineering experience while serving as the 200th RED HORSE Squadron commander. Colonel Stephan's

staff assignments include tours at U.S. Central Command, U.S. Special Operations Command. He earned his B.S. from The Ohio State University, and his M.A. from American Military University. In his civilian life, he is a Miami based 757/767 First Officer with American Airlines.

Keith Poyner: Task Force 'Bravo' Senior Mentor



I retired from the Army in November 2017 as a Lieutenant Colonel with over 31 years of service to our Nation in both Active and Reserve commands. I served in Infantry and Logistics assignments in both conventional and special operations forces. I led an Infantry Company during the Panama invasion and served as a logistics battalion commander in both OIF I and OIF 6. I served as deputy commander of the

101st Airborne Sustainment Brigade during OEF 10-11 and from 2012-14 I deployed to the OEF theater numerous times in support of US Special Operations Command. It has been a tremendous honor for me to be a part of a dedicated group of volunteers who continue their selfless service to our veteran family. It is also an honor for me to help our veterans complete the VTC program and get a fresh start on their future.

Dwight Brown: Task Force 'Charlie' Senior Mentor



Command Sergeant Major (Retired) Dwight J. Brown, a native of Lexington, Kentucky, enlisted in the Army in January 1973. He is a graduate of the United States Army Sergeant Major Academy, First Sergeants Course, Army Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, Drill Sergeant School, Operations and Intelligence (Battle Staff) Course, and the Joint Fire Power Air Ground Operations Course. His assignments have included five tours in the Federal Republic of Germany: the 11TH Armor Cavalry Regiment, Fulda/Bad Hersfeld; three tours in 1st Armored Division, Katterback/Ansbach, Erlangen and Bad Kreuznach; and the 8th Infantry Division, Mainz.

His deployments include Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Saudi Arabia; Operation Restore/Continue Hope, Somalia; Operation Uphold Democracy, Haiti; Hurricane Andrew Relief, Florida; and Operations Joint Guard/Forge, Bosnia-Herzegovina; Operation Enduring Freedom; and Operation Iraqi Freedom. His stateside assignments were Fort Riley, Kansas; Fort Knox, Kentucky; Fort Drum, New York, and Fort McPherson, Georgia. Command Sergeant Major Brown served as the Command Sergeant Major, United States Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida from August 4, 2000 to August 1, 2004. Residents for 12 years.

Command Sergeant Major Brown is married to the former Angela Hall. They have one daughter, Nicole. He retired August 1, 2004 after more than 31 years of military service. He is the founder and CEO of D.Brown and Associates — a Small Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business. He is also an Independent Consultant.

James “Jim” Fletcher: Task Force ‘Delta’ Senior Mentor

Retired Army Colonel with 26 years of service; having served primarily in Infantry and Special Forces assignments. Following retirement, worked as a technician in the automotive, security, and automation fields. In addition to being a Senior Mentor with the Hillsborough County Veterans Treatment Court (VTC), I belong to various veterans groups and charities. Like most mentors, I joined the VTC to help veterans. Been married for 49

years, and we have two boys and three grandchildren.



Ron Rook: Task Force ‘Echo’ Senior Mentor

I served in the Marine Corps from 1964 to 2001, and then served the Military as a DOD Civilian (Civil Service) from 2001 to 2014. First 3 years in the military I was a Mortarman, and then the rest of my career I was in the Military Police Field. I served in the Viet Nam, the Gulf War, Iraq, and supported Afghanistan Operations — where I worked Security and Law Enforcement matters, and training countries assigned to Central Command in

deterring, preventing, and mitigating the circumstances of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). Now fully retired, and I joined the Mentor Program in 2017 — now serving as a Senior Mentor of Task Force Echo. Additionally, I am the President of Tampa’s Defender’s Law Enforcement Program, and a Past Director of the Brandon Harley Chapter — both Motorcycle Clubs provide lots of community service and charity programs to help

Veterans in need. I also have served for the past 15 years as the Chairman of my Milton High School Reunion Committee. I have been married for 51 years to a Marine (Mary), and have 2 Daughters and 4 grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Colonel U.S. Marine Corps
[Retired]



Don DeCort: Task Force ‘Golf’ Senior Mentor

Donald P. DeCort, Esquire (“Don”) retired from the United States Army in 1994 as a Colonel with over 24 years of active duty service. Don received his J.D. from St. Mary’s University School of Law in San Antonio, TX and his Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point. He is admitted to practice in Texas, Florida, and the Middle District of Florida. Don was in private practice in Tampa for twenty four years concentrating in the areas of Family Law, Business, and Real Estate Law, with a strong

emphasis in Family Law dealing with military pensions and related issues. Don received the Family Law Inns of Court award for Professionalism in 2007 and has been certified by the Supreme Court of Florida as a Family Law Mediator since 2001. Don retired from the active practice of law in 2017 and currently volunteers as a Tram driver at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital and as a Senior Mentor in the Veteran’s Treatment Court in Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL. Don also works to support our veterans in many other community organizations and activities. Don and his wife Susie reside in Hillsborough County, Florida and have four children and thirteen grandchildren. He is an active member of his Church and community and in addition to spending time with his family and travel, his interests include golf, music, reading and physical fitness.



James “Senior” Salgado: Task Force ‘Hotel’ Senior Mentor



Good day! I'm glad you are here and interested in the work we do here with our veterans in the court. I am a recently retired US Air Force member of 29 years, my last job was working in the HQ USSOCOM Intelligence Directorate as a Foreign Disclosure Officer. My job allowed me significant opportunities to mentor and the Vets court is the pinnacle of that service to others. As the Operations Director in the court, I oversee all operations activities that

directly support the mission. My reason for serving goes back to my Dad's service to the US Army in World War II. My Dad, like many of our veterans suffered from "war fatigue" or PTSD that plagued him until his death in 1985. It was in living this with him that motivated me to want to do more and the natural progression of that effort culminated when I be-came a Jr. mentor with the Veterans Treatment Court. I am grateful each day to be part of this very compre-

hensive, problem-solving approach to saving and rehabilitating lives. It is a true calling for me and for most of our mentors in the program today. Join us for a session and see for yourself why this is a mission of the heart. If you would like to learn more, reach out to me or any of our mentors. You can catch us in the court or in the community, taking time to discuss this mission is never an imposition.



The Honorable Michael J. Scionti: VTC Judge

MICHAEL J. SCIONTI serves as a Circuit Court Judge in and for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Florida (2015-present) and currently presides over both Circuit Civil, Unified Family Court and Circuit Criminal, Veterans Treatment Court. Judge Scionti earned his B.S. degree from Florida State University (1990) and his J.D. degree from South Texas College of Law (1996), and has been admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court; U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit; U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida; and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. Judge Scionti also serves as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army

Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps (2000-present). He is currently assigned to U.S. Special Operations Command and has served multiple overseas tours of duty as a Military Magistrate and Rule of Law Advisor in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Judge Scionti formerly served as a Senior Diplomat and Foreign Policy Advisor, U.S. Department of State (2011-2013); Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Defense (2009-2011); State Representative, Florida House of Representative (2006-2009); Assistant Statewide Prosecutor, Florida (2002-2006); Assistant State Attorney, Florida (1998-2002); and Assistant Attorney General, Florida (1996-1998). Department of Defense (2009-2011); State Representative, Florida House of Representative (2006-2009); Assistant Statewide Prosecutor, Florida (2002-2006); Assistant State Attorney, Florida (1998-2002); and Assistant Attorney General, Florida (1996-1998).

**Location: 800 E Twiggs St
Tampa, FL 33602
Courtroom 52,
Courtroom Annex**

Time: 0830



**2019 Veterans Treatment Court
Division "V" Court Dates**

**Friday, September 27, 2019
Friday, October 18, 2019
Friday, November 8, 2019
Friday, December 6, 2019**