

Spotlight On

Senior Master Sergeant Lori A. P. Gates ,
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Anthon, Iowa native Senior Master Sergeant Lori A. P. Gates is with the Alaska Air National Guard, performing MPA (Military Personnel Appropriations) days for the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and the United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) as the Assistant to the Commands Senior Enlisted Advisor.

As the assistant, Gates assists the NORAD and USNORTHCOM Sergeant Major (Sgt. Maj.) with managing issues relating to enlisted members of both commands and its components.



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?I also provide the communication link between over 20 Senior Enlisted Advisors (SEA) from all services headquarters staff personnel, to resolve or clarify enlisted issues, policies, programs and concerns,? Gates said.

Additional duties include trip planner and coordinator for the Sgt. Maj.; arranging the daily calendar, itineraries, and agendas for the Sgt. Maj. and visiting SEAs; preparing briefings, staff summary sheets and memorandums for presentations given to visiting dignitaries and senior staff members. Gates also is the coordinator to the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, Military Affairs Council and Armed Forces Military Members of the Year committee.

?By providing administrative support to the Senior Enlisted Advisor, it gives me the opportunity to meet the folks assigned to both commands. I enjoy helping people and actually seeing that they are taken care of and happy,? Gates said.

Gates said she joined the Air National Guard in 1986 because of the educational opportunities the Guard offered. Her brother, Senior Master Sgt., Alan Petersen, recruited her into the Guard.

Gates role model is Chief Master Sgt. ?Homer? Irvin, Tenn. Air National Guard. ?He was a terrific mentor, always very encouraging and inspiring,? Gates said.

Gates has been with NORAD and USNORTHCOM since Sept 2003.