

ALABAMA VETERAN ANITA HOEL:

"I guess you could say I joined the Air Force in 1977 to make a better life for both my daughter and myself. At first I was a little intimidated, but soon adjusted to military life quite well. I got my start at Maxwell Air Force Base, right here in Alabama, which was nice. But, being close to home didn't last. I was assigned to a base in Guam. The thought of going to the other side of the world was something I never dreamed I would do.

"Once there, I met the man I married, Wayne Hoel. For the next 14 years, I served at the 54th Range Squadron, the 547th Advance Threat Squadron and several other posts. The highlight of my career came when I was deployed with just one day's notice to Kuwait City, Kuwait, to establish a special security office there. After that I retired and returned to civilian life, proud that, though I was sort of starting over, I could say I served my country for 20 years."