



# Special Programs Employee Finds Unique Ways to Serve

By Dianne Ryder  
Editor in Chief

**D**efense Contract Management Agency Special Programs South employee Joseph Williams has been employed here for more than six years. But that's not what makes him "special." Williams has two vocations in life besides his job — one involves motorcycling; the other, missionary work. "I've been riding motorcycles my entire life," said Williams. "I've ridden in numerous charity rides and toy runs, but in 2006 I heard about the Patriot Guard Riders and decided to check them out."

DCMA Special Programs South employee Joseph Williams is heavily involved in missionary work. (Photos courtesy of Joseph Williams)

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**— Joseph Williams**

The PGRs’ primary mission is to attend funeral services for fallen American heroes. They perform escort services and set up flag lines to honor those fallen. “During one of the PGR missions, I met an individual for the local American Legion Riders Post. I soon joined this group also,” said Williams. The ALR serves the local veteran population as well as the local community in a multitude of ways. Some of its functions this year included performing escort duty for Ride 2 Recovery and hosting dinners for Disabled American Veterans and a policemen and firemen appreciation breakfast.

The PGR also has “help on the home front” missions. These include going to the airport to welcome troops home or see them

off, assisting family members of those deployed and fulfilling almost any request from military service members. “I’ve participated in many ‘help on the home front’ missions and too many funerals, including one for a DCMA family member,” Williams stated. “Escorting for funerals is always emotional, although at the same time very uplifting — especially when the

family gives you thanks for just being there.”

Williams remarked that during his Air Force tenure, he was heavily involved with base and community service, mostly with the Air Force Sergeants Association. He said retiring from the Air Force and moving away from a military community left a void in his life. “Sitting in church one morning in 2004, a plea went out for an upcoming trip to build houses in Juarez, Mexico. I volunteered for the trip and thoroughly enjoyed the experience,” Williams said.

Since that trip, Williams has returned to Juarez six times to



Joseph Williams rides his motorcycle with the Patriot Guard Riders, whose primary mission is to attend funeral services for fallen American heroes. They perform escort services and set up flag lines to honor those fallen.



Williams has been to Juarez, Mexico, six times to help build cinderblock homes for families living in cardboard shacks.

help build cinderblock homes for families living in cardboard shacks. “In 2006, I was asked to join the church’s mission committee and have served on the committee since that time,” he stated.

According to Williams, the impact of these experiences on the recipients is evident. “Watching the families’ faces as they step into their new homes is always inspirational,” he said. “However, one poignant time was right after blessing a new home for a family. As we walked out of the home, I noticed the neighbors’ home next door — wooden pallets covered in cardboard. One family’s need was met, but there is much more to do.” When asked about unique challenges involved in both of

these activities, Williams stated, “I have found that time is my biggest resource. Balancing volunteerism with work and family can be a challenge.” One way Williams deals with this obstacle is to get his family involved with the mission work. “My wife has helped with the Dallas Ramp Project,” he continued, “and both of my daughters have traveled to Juarez — in fact, both are going with me in May for the college mission trip.”

Williams said his work at DCMA has helped him with “time management and being able to balance numerous tasks.” Other “tasks” Williams balances include the following mission activities:

- Amigos Days — a hands-on ministry that meets two

weekends a year, where urban and suburban churches join together with urban residents to perform home repairs and building projects.

- Dallas Ramp Project — a ministry that meets two to three times per year to build access ramps onto homes of those who would otherwise be homebound.
- Allen Shoe Ministry — a new ministry that provides shoes to needy children.
- Hurricane Relief — a ministry that has taken three trips in the past three years to various locations to provide various hurricane relief activities.

Remarkd Williams, “Volunteering has opened my mind to see what’s important in life.” **C**

### Information Resources

- For more information on the PGR, go to: <http://www.patriotguard.org/>.
- For more information on the ALR, go to: <http://www.legion.org/programs/legionriders/about>.
- For more information on Williams’ mission work, go to: <http://www.suncreekumc.org/missions/missions.html>.