

Debbi Fowler ©

By Connie J. Schlosberg

When Debbi Fowler started in federal government civil service in March 1980, she had no idea how far her career would take her. Her first job was in Washington DC - not far from where she grew up - working as a clerk-typist. Since most people who work in DC live far outside the area, Debbi, being the resourceful person that she is, got her commercial driver's license so that she could drive a commuter van. She would get up at 3:30 a.m. every day to pick up people along her way to take them to DC saving money on transportation costs. This resourcefulness would eventually help her with her duties as the program manager managing funds and processes for the Ground-Based Electro-Optical Deep Space Surveillance System (GEODSS) contract for the 21<sup>st</sup> Program Management Division.

After her Washington DC job, Debbi transferred to a job in Germany working for the Office of Special Investigations (OSI). She loved working in Europe because she could travel to other countries within a two-hour timeframe. Imagine traveling to Austria for lunch! She enjoyed meeting people from different cultures. While employed by OSI, she conducted business with the German police department. Since they did not speak English, Debbi once again used her innovation and took it upon herself to learn conversational German.

She has been working at Peterson Air Force Base since August 1987. Since her tenure here at Peterson, Debbi has observed how much Peterson has grown and changed such as the landscaping. Being a single parent, she is satisfied with the improvement of adding more housing for single military members. She is also happy to see that "civilians are recognized as a valuable Air Force resource." She even notices better interaction between the 21<sup>st</sup> Space Wing units and tenant units such as USSTRATCOM and ESC.

Her most proud accomplishment is the job opportunities she chose that led to more financial security for her. Debbi eventually worked her way from that clerk-typist job to the contracting field and then found her niche in program management. She was one of the original seven members chosen from Headquarters to start a Program Management Office (PMO). She had a big hand in getting the organization up and running with developing policies and procedures. This PMO managed multi-wing contracts and she is proud to have been a part of seven high-dollar acquisitions. Debbi has partaken in every major acquisition that has helped change Peterson for the better since 1983. She likes that she has traveled throughout the world but loves living in Colorado Springs. She believes that the Springs is a good place to have raised her daughter. Debbi says, "Civil service jobs provide advantages for someone to move throughout the world."