



Not Your Average Librarian

 37TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM · THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2017 *

When most people stop and think about an American Soldier, they picture an infantryman; a gruff, beaten down guy living in the dirt. A children's librarian is not what most people would imagine. However, that is exactly what Sgt. Charlie Hacker is.

As a Paralegal for the [37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team](#) of the [Ohio National Guard](#), Hacker is the chief legal noncommissioned officer for the Staff Judge Advocate team deployed to Kosovo.

The [Middletown, Ohio](#), native has a lot of responsibilities as part of his role with the legal team. He assists Soldiers with powers of attorney and constructing wills. He assists the brigade commander with policy decisions, military justice, and administrative actions. He is responsible for processing paperwork for legal actions.

“If a Soldier messes up, good order and discipline is essential to the Army, corrective action needs to be taken,” said Hacker. “There are steps to be taken and uniformed code of military justice isn’t always the first step. Sometimes I help people understand that there might be other routes they can take.”

Currently on his first deployment, Hacker has a new outlook on what it means to be a Soldier.

“Especially after being [in Kosovo] I see the difference the United States has actually made in the world, and it makes me feel good seeing the people here feel safe because we are here providing security and making a difference in other parts of the world,” he said.

Hacker has proven himself to be an integral part of the legal team here in Kosovo.

“He is primarily in charge of day-to-day operations, keeps us on task, and he’s a workhorse as a paralegal,” said Capt. John Mingo, trial council for the 37th IBCT. “He has a better knowledge base than others, he doesn’t need a lot of oversight, and he thinks critically.”

Before joining the Army, Hacker was a high school teacher. While he enjoys having an impact on teenagers’ lives, he wanted to impact young kids’ lives as well. When a children’s librarian job presented itself, he applied, and was hired at [Washington-Centerville Public Library](#).

“I think that a lot of kids don’t have positive role models in their lives, and I think that is essential to becoming a functioning socialized adult,” said Hacker.

He takes great joy in being there for the younger generation.

Hacker explains that it makes him feel good that he can be a role model to someone who doesn’t have a positive influence in their lives.

Hacker and his wife of three years, Sara, currently reside in [Miamisburg, Ohio](#), with their two dogs Milo and Ruby. Hacker has a bachelor’s of science and education and is a year away from completing his master’s degree in library and information science from [Kent State University](#).

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U.S. Army Sgt. Charlie Hacker, chief legal non-commissioned officer for the staff judge advocate office, Multinational Battle Group-East, hands off paperwork to his coworker at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, May 2. Hacker assists Soldier's with tax returns and passport discrepancies. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Bill Washburn, 20th Public Affairs Detachment)