

# **Cindy Chastain**

The National AgrAbility Project  
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## **SUMMARY**

Military Veteran of more than 31 years, serving in operations, logistics and human resources positions. Proven leadership and training experience, excellent written and oral communication skills. Highly motivated to serve fellow veterans.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**National AgrAbility Program, Veteran's Outreach Coordinator, 2014 – present.** Responsibilities include networking with the 20 state and regional AgrAbility projects and other relevant organizations to improve opportunities and outcomes for farmer-veteran clients. Represents AgrAbility at various veteran- and agriculture-related events, assists in planning and conducting AgrAbility's veterans initiatives, and serve as a consultant for state and regional projects.

**U.S. Army Officer 1979-2010.** Commissioned in 1979 from the Purdue University Reserve Officer Training Corps. Served in many positions of leadership throughout a 31 year career, both overseas and stateside, including:

### **Deputy Commander, 1-19<sup>th</sup> Agribusiness Development Team - Afghanistan - 2008-2010**

Responsibilities – Deputy Commander and Agriculture Team Leader for a 62 member team of multiple agricultural disciplines. Worked with and coordinated missions with a variety of government agencies and military units to facilitate agricultural reconstruction and improvement in Khost and East Patkika provinces of eastern Afghanistan.

- Chosen by the Adjutant General of Indiana to serve in this critical, unique and historic strategic initiative that created and deployed agribusiness development teams to Afghanistan
- Led approximately 100 combat and agricultural missions in a dangerous and volatile region of Afghanistan
- Conducted more than 150 key leader engagements with Afghan leaders at Provincial, tribal and village levels
- Orchestrated more than 25 agricultural and agribusiness projects and initiated others for later implementation; projects included vocational education, irrigation, watershed and rangeland management, and poultry and bee-keeping operations
- Developed strong and sustained relationships with Khost University, its chancellor and School of Agriculture. Worked together to develop curriculum and improve their programs, including the university's teaching farm

### **Human Resources Director, Indiana National Guard - Indianapolis - 2006-2008**

Served as a primary staff advisor to the Adjutant General. Planned, directed and administered personnel programs for all full-time Army and Air National Guard personnel

- Managed and directed human resources programs for more than 3000 full-time federal employees of the Indiana Army and Air National Guard
- Orchestrated a mission transformation and personnel realignment for the 181<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing resulting in zero involuntary separations or loss of employment
- Managed an annual budget of over \$60 million.

### **Administrative and Personnel Officer, 38<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division - Indianapolis - 2004-2006**

The Division Commander's primary staff officer for all human resource matters

- Managed an unprecedented period of personnel turmoil as soldiers and units deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan; provided oversight of all personnel actions to ensure continued care of soldiers and their families during this stressful time
- Deployed to Mississippi, just days after Hurricane Katrina; worked with soldiers, military units, state and federal officials, and civilian organizations to establish and oversee a safe environment and coordinated relief operations to the citizens of Mississippi

### **Commander, 38<sup>th</sup> Main Support Battalion - Terre Haute - 2000-2003**

Commander of a battalion of more than 900 soldiers. Duties included planning and executing training and supervising missions of logistical support

- Planned and executed a near flawless training exercise at the National Training Center. Mobilized more than 300 soldiers to and from the California Desert, received a 'commendable rating in support operations, with no significant injuries or accidents
- Improved the readiness of the battalion in nearly every category despite the high operational tempo due to deployments and preparations for war

### **Assistant Professor of Military Science - Indiana University – Purdue University (IUPUI), Indianapolis - 1993-1996**

Taught military science, ensuring cadets were trained and ready for Army leadership roles

- Primary instructor for juniors preparing for critical summer advanced camp - results of which determined their military futures. Taught leadership skills, writing skills, and small unit tactics. Counseled all cadets on a quarterly basis
- Recruited and trained cadets, many of whom have excelled in their subsequent military career

## **EDUCATION**

**Bachelor of Science in Animal Sciences, School of Agriculture, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 1979**

**Completed 21 Hrs in masters program in Public Management at IUPUI**

#### **Military Education:**

- Reserve Components National Security Course
- Logistics Pre-Command Course
- ROTC Cadet Command Course
- Command and General Staff College
- Combined Arms Service Staff School
- Quartermaster Officer Advanced Course
- Italian Language Course at the Defense Language Institute
- Nike Hercules Missile Course
- Air Defense Artillery Officer Basic Course

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

President of Chastain Farms, INC., Crawfordsville, IN  
Board of Directors, 38<sup>th</sup> Division Association, Indianapolis, IN  
Member, National Guard Association of Indiana