

Dale Morris, Fort Smith, Arkansas, is Choctaw Nation's Veteran of the Month.

Morris was born Dec. 12, 1951, in Fort Smith, Arkansas, attended public schools there and graduated from Southside High School in 1969. He joined the U.S. Army in June of that same year. Pvt. Morris was given orders to Fort Polk, Louisiana, for basic training and then went to Fort Lee, Virginia, for advanced infantry training. He attended military occupation specialty training to become a supply specialist.

He volunteered to go to airborne school in Fort Benning, Georgia, and received orders to the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, spending six months before deployment as a volunteer to Vietnam, and nine months in theatre. He was given orders on his way back from Vietnam to spend another nine months in Germany before being given PCS orders to Fort Dix, New Jersey. He was released from active duty March 1972.

Spec. Morris joined the Reserves and was assigned to the 95th training division in Fort Smith, Arkansas, where he spent two years. Sgt. Morris transferred to HHD 2nd Battalion, 12th Special Forces in Tulsa, Oklahoma, from 1974-1986. He returned to active duty and spent four years with the unit until 1990. In Jan. 1991, he went to the 187th Infantry Brigade in Fort Devens, Massachusetts, with numerous assignments, doing border operations in Texas and operations in Iceland. He went to Joint Readiness Training Center in Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, in 1993 for training operations. He was assigned PCS to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, with two assignments. In 1995, Master Sgt. Morris was assigned to the 360th Civil Affairs Brigade and traveled to Germany and Bosnia for a three-month operation.

July 1999 through 2002, Sgt. Major Morris was assigned to the Pentagon as a Logistics NCO for the office of the Chief Army Reserve logistics division. He was then given PCS to Mountain View, California's 351st civil affairs command. In 2008, Sgt. Major Morris was given orders to the 420th engineer brigade in Bryan, Texas. He then retired from the U.S. Army.

Since retirement, Morris has worked for the U.S. Census Bureau and raised cows. He recently celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary with his wife, Judy. They have one son, Dale Jr., and two daughters, Diedre Holmes and Jennifer Shade. He also enjoys spending time with family and friends.