

Information from Biskinik January 2023 issue

Willard Johnson, from Talihina, Oklahoma (District 3), is the Choctaw Nation Veteran of the Month.

Johnson attended Smithville Public Schools, graduating in 1976. He went on to OSU Okmulgee where he attended for two years and then entered the workforce.

He shipped off to basic training and AIT in Fort Benning, Georgia, where his military occupation specialty was as Infantryman. After rigorous training, PFC Johnson was ordered to his first duty station immediately with first battalion, seventh infantry (1/7) at Fort Ord, Calif., where he served two years in a special cohort battalion, continually working with month long field operations and workup

for deployments. He was then given orders to Camp Graves, Korea where he served as part of First Battalion, ninth infantry (1/9). His duties included patrolling the Demilitarized Military Zone, the 38th parallel.

His duties were to keep people from crossing over and detain ones who were caught. He served there from 1983 to 1984 and then returned home to Talihina.

He worked in Talihina and eventually returned to the Army in 1986 in the National Guard as an infantry soldier. He went on to EMT school and eventually became an X-ray technician. SPC Johnson was given an honorable discharge in 1994 and stayed in the medical field for 33 years until his retirement in 2020.

