

Biography of Andrew J. “Andy” Perkins,
CW3 Ret.



Andy Perkins served on active duty from 1970 to 1980, with tours of duty at OTJA HQ VII Corps, Stuttgart, Germany ('70-'73); OTJA US Army Armor Center & Ft Knox, KY ('73-'75); OTJA US Army Artillery Center & Ft Sill, OK ('75-'76); OTJA HQ 2nd Infantry Division, Dongducheon, Korea ('76-'77); and OTJA 21st Support Command, Kaiserslautern, Germany ('77-'80).

He was drafted in 1970 and went to Germany as a Company Clerk, but soon OJT'd as a court reporter and received his 71E MOS in June '71. In 1974 he was recognized as the #1 court report in the Army. In March 1975 he was promoted to Warrant Officer in the JAGC.

Since leaving the military Andy worked primarily in the advertising printing industry as a sales manager and sales trainer, and in developing online advertising with Knight Ridder Digital from 2001-2004. From 1989 – 2004 Andy made a number of trips as a volunteer to Liberia, West Africa, working in business development training and microloans. Liberia is statistically the poorest country in the world. In 2004 that opportunity closed and Andy started a non-profit called BESTWA, Building Everyone's Success Together in West Africa. He saw the terrible toll of child exploitation and in 2008 he opened a feeding program for 150 malnourished and starving children. That program has grown to feeding over 1,050 children a day while adding health care, education, and skills training. Some of the children have received a university education on BESTWA scholarships, and this fall one is receiving a Masters in Epidemiology. He also imports several million dollars a year in basic medicine for free distribution to three hospitals and 22 clinics.

You can learn more about his work at www.bestwa.org or www.facebook.com/bestwaorg .

Andy and his wife, Teresa, have 6 children and 17 grandchildren. They are active members of Midlothian Bible Church. Andy is the Board Chair of

BESTWA. He travels to Liberia several times a year and spends much of his time in the US speaking to civic groups and churches.

He would like to serve on AMLA's Board and is interested in working with Social Media/Public Relations.