



MASTER SGT. ANNETTE FRENZL was honored on her retirement after 34 years of service on Mother's Day at the Kansas Regional Training Center in Salina. She is the former Annette Olson, a daughter of Robert and Sally Olson of rural Ludell. She

graduated from Atwood High School in 1977 and is a teacher in Salina.

— Salina Journal photo by Tom Dorsey

Army reservist retires and hangs up her boots

By **MARY LOU OLSON**
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When Dave Bergling of Oberlin served as an Army recruiter, one of the over 500 men and women he signed up was a cousin, Annette (Olson) Frenzl of Salina, daughter of Robert and Sally Olson of rural Ludell.

Her father is a 1949 graduate of Decatur Community High School.

When Mrs. Frenzl retired on Mother's Day, she had reached the rank of Master Sergeant. She was honored for over 34 years of service to the Kansas Army National Guard at the Kansas Regional Training Center in Salina in a ceremony sponsored by the National Guard Medical Detachment.

As a token of her appreciation to Master Sgt. Bergling, she presented him with a large Eagle plaque with the inscription: "Thank You for starting me out in the right direction. MSG Annette Frenzl (Olson)."

"This is the first time I ever received a thank-you for recruiting someone in all of the years I worked as a recruiter," Mr. Bergling said, "and I am humbled by the recognition."

Mrs. Frenzl was interviewed by *The Salina Journal* when she retired and the story is printed below, with permission.

By **GORDON D. FIEDLER Jr.**
The Salina Journal

Annette Frenzl was studying elementary education at Fort Hays State University in 1979 but was running out of money.

Her Marine Corps brother had just returned from Okinawa, and he and a cousin who was an Army recruiter mentioned military service.

"Between the two of them, they talked me into it," Frenzl said.

"Back then, we didn't have a lot of options," she said. "I was trying to go to college and working two jobs, so it was another way to get some income."

The advice seemed propitious. That was the first year Fort Hays was starting a ROTC program, she said.

Two years later, she emerged from the program as a 2nd lieutenant and one of the few women graduates. She transitioned into an Army Reserve unit in Hays, which was a medical unit.

"I really wanted to get out of the medical unit," she said.

The closest other outfit was a military police unit in Great Bend.

There were three problems: She had no military experience. She had no police experience. And she was a woman.

"The unit had no females at all," she said. "I had a hard time deciding I wanted to go into that unit."

She convinced a friend to join with her.

The friend lasted about a year, but Frenzl stuck it out.

"It was something different," she said. "It was something intriguing. I

ended up becoming a detachment commander and stayed with them for six years."

Not in the plans, but...

By this time, she was working as a teacher and a separate job in the military was not in her career battle plan.

But six years became 12, and 12 became 24, until Sunday when she hung up her boots after 34 years in the Reserves and National Guard.

"I really enjoyed it," she said, adding that 34 years seemed about right.

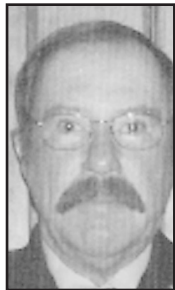
She mulled mustering out before she had her 20 years in, but decided to stay in, a decision she's glad she made.

One decision she would do over was resigning her captain's commission in 1997.

"I really debated about it," she said. Now that's a busy life.

At the time, she was an officer candidate school instructor for the National Guard in Salina and working long hours.

"I was pulling three weekends a month and every Wednesday night for two, three hours," she said. "We had two children at home and I was working on my master's at Manhattan and driving back and forth. As a family, we were really busy."



D. Bergling



MASTER SGT. DAVE BERGLING served over 26 years in the U.S. Army and recruited Annette (Olson) Frenzl when she was a student at Fort Hays State University.



THIS AMERICAN EAGLE plaque was presented to Dave Bergling of Oberlin when one of his recruits, Master Sgt. Annette (Olson) Frenzl of Salina, retired after serving over 34 years in the Army Reserve and National Guard.