Delbert Davis

DELBERT’S BACKGROUND
Delbert Davis joined the military wanting to be a helicopter mechanic, but during the physical exam discovered he was color blind, disqualifying him from a lot of military jobs. “Becoming a medic was really one of the only choices I had, but it’s a good thing because I ended up really liking it.” Delbert worked on ambulance teams in Korea, Iraq and the US before being assigned to Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii, “where I assisted on my first cardiac ultrasound. I thought, well, this looks pretty cool, maybe I could do this when I get out.”

WHAT BROUGHT DELBERT TO CCSF
Delbert reentered civilian life after nine years of service and had to find a new way of supporting his wife and daughters. He thought about becoming an EMT, but even though he was qualified, “the adrenaline rush was over for me, Iraq kind of burned me out on the blood and guts.” Delbert wanted a new career, and the Post 911 GI Bill would cover his tuition and living expenses, so he began researching Cardiovascular Echo Technology (CVT/ECHO) programs. “City College came up and I said alright, let’s see!” Out of 125 applicants, Delbert secured one of the 22 spots in CCSF’s highly sought-after CVT/ECHO program.

DELBERT’S CCSF EXPERIENCE
Delbert connected with the Veteran’s Alliance at CCSF. “They helped me out quite a bit with the transition from military life to not only being a civilian, but also a student. I hadn’t been to school since the 90’s, so it was kind of an adjustment.” The CVT/ECHO program was “pretty intense,” but Delbert enjoyed the college environment and the challenge. In his Anatomy of Physiology class, “my professor was also a professor at Stanford, and she taught us like she was teaching Stanford students. It was cool, she was tough on us, but I appreciated that,” and English 1C, “was so hard, the instructor made me want to pull my hair out. But the content was good and it’s made me think about everything I read in a more critical way. So, in the end, I really liked that class, too.”

WHY CCSF WAS A GOOD CHOICE FOR DELBERT
Through the CVT/ECHO clinical internship program, Delbert was able to gain experience at two busy Echocardiology Departments in the East Bay -- Alameda County Medical Center and Alta Bates-Summit Medical Center. He now performs echocardiograms on fellow veterans. “I spend 30 minutes with people and some guys have told me things they wouldn’t tell their spouses. We just connect. I love working here and if the pay was better, I would retire working here. I like it that much.” Next month, Delbert is starting work at a private cardiology practice. It’s closer to home with higher pay, which Delbert says is good because his kids will be heading off to college soon. Delbert’s eldest is even following in his footsteps, applying for the CVT/ECHO program next year.

“I was reassigned to Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii, that’s where I was introduced to echocardiograms. I assisted on my first cardiac ultrasound, and I thought well, this looks pretty cool, maybe I could do this when I get out.”

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