



(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

**Bernard Richardson**

Out of all the careers in the book, nothing holds such opportunity as serving one's own country. Also, it provides the enrollees with technical training, unlimited travel and steady income. There are four main branches of the U.S Armed Forces: Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corp. At the perimeter of this base are subsections like the Army Reserves and the National Guard. The National Guard offers a unique position for its personnel—experience in the service while maintaining your status in the civilian world.

Bernard Richardson has entered this dual world. "I work at Portland General Electric in the public affairs department in the area of civic relations. In the Oregon Air National Guard I'm an E7 which is a Master Sergeant in the communications field. I've been in the guard for nine years. Prior to joining the guard I was in the Air Force for six years."

Richardson believes that this branch of the service can help young men and women by introducing them to the world. "I grew up in a small and very poor community. So when I turned seventeen I headed for the nearest recruiting office. At that time I ended up in the supply field." Richardson stayed in the Air Force for six years. "I got out of the service and got a job in the employment field."

"A young individual could get on active duty or get in the Air National Guard. We meet one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer. There are any number of skills an individual could learn. This is, again, up to the individual."

As a Master Sergeant in the Air National Guard Richardson works in material controls. "We take care of all the supplies for our unit's site. Every quarter we go to a different site and I make sure that we have all the things that we need." The Air National Guard is under the Governor in case of disaster and if there is a war the National Guard can be called to serve like a regular unit of the service. Richardson wears the uniform of two worlds, a success in both because he's consistent and because he wants to be. He adds that you can too.

## Oregon Air National Guard

288-5611