

Learning with Uncle Sam and more...

Individuals don't win. Teams do.

Sam Walton

I served three years in the United States Army, starting with basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. The rest of my tour of duty was spent at Fort Campbell, Kentucky with the 101st Airborne Division, a time of additional learning and transition. Viet Nam was the motivating force behind the training. Military duty has a unique way of accelerating the process of growing up. In the Army, I moved from boyhood into manhood. During my time in the Army, I continued to develop my leadership skills. I learned much about working within a unit and the importance of teamwork in getting a task done. I began to understand how motivation and the desire to achieve often allowed platoons to perform at a higher level than most would believe possible.

After my tour in the Army, I entered the business world and spent time building houses. The construction industry enabled me to develop additional skills which I would draw upon later in

life and my educational career. Budgets had to be maintained in order to protect the profit margin – which represented the livelihood for my family. Clarity of communication meant that the homeowner, the homebuilder and all the laborers understood the interrelatedness of timelines and procedures. Having a systematic plan and following it insured that the foundation was poured before the roofers were called in. *Measuring twice and cutting once* prevented costly mistakes. The end result was a tangible product, a house that would be someone's home. My success was measured by the homeowners liking the house, the sub-contractors being paid a fair wage and my family reaping the benefits of the profits I had made.