

# PROFILE *of The Week*

By **Dr. DHANPAUL NARINE**

## Sharon Balli

### Captain, United States Army

When we met a few years ago she was about to be deployed to Iraq. When we met a few days ago she had just returned from Afghanistan. In the intervening years Sharon Balli worked her way to the prestigious rank of Captain of the United States Army. This warm and unassuming young lady has seen action in a number of countries. She knows the geography and culture of the Middle East well. She is a soldier, pilot, squadron leader and motivator—all rolled into a personality that relishes leadership.

Sharon simply lives for the military. When she is away she counts the days as to when she could return. How did this young lady reach such a high position in the Army? Sharon was born at Strathspey on the East Coast of Demerara in Guyana. Her mom is Narainy and her dad is Rudolph Persaud. There are three other children in the family. Sharon attended primary school in Guyana where her favorite subject was history. Her High School was Indian Education Trust College in Woolford Lane in Georgetown.

A number of teachers left a favorable impression on Sharon and she is still in contact with one of them. Ms. Dabee was particularly helpful and encouraging to the young Sharon. In 1993 Sharon's life took a new turn. She boarded a plane for New York. She was in her teens and everything looked different. It took some time for her to adjust to New York

and its lifestyle.

The family lived in Jamaica in Queens and Sharon went back to school. She attended Hillcrest High School and did well. Sharon became interested in the military while she was at Hillcrest. The military offered a different view of life and it meant that Sharon could go to college as

worked part-time for the Army. Sharon wanted to be a pilot and she transferred to flight school at Farmingdale.

of talents. Sharon explains that she has a lot of interests and since time is limited one has to make use of every

licenses and she was deployed with the military to Iraq. It was her first experience abroad and she was under-

was sent to the 113 Precinct. In 2012 she became a Lieutenant in the NYPD. In June 2016 she was

**Capt. Sharon Balli is serving the United States with pride and is an excellent role model in our community.**



**Capt. Sharon Balli with her husband Puran at the Arya Spiritual Center in Queens, New York.**

well.

She joined the Army in 1997 starting as a private and did her training in Missouri. After six months of training she returned to New York and began her studies at John Jay College while she

After several months of training she graduated with her aviation degree and is a licensed pilot.

But her main interest has been the military and it was here that she was able to display her wide range

of spare moment. According to Sharon 'one may not find the perfect job but one should find something that he or she is good at and challenge yourself and learn something new.'

Sharon graduated in 2002 with two pilot

standably circumspect. But Sharon showed great leadership in challenging conditions. This prompted her supervisors to suggest that she should perhaps consider becoming an officer.

Sharon thought about it and continued to serve and in 2007 she was promoted to the rank of an officer. She was responsible for logistical planning. She has completed one tour in Afghanistan and two in Iraq and she has just returned from the Middle East on official duties. Sharon has always been on the list of the NYPD. She credits her husband Puran for his support; he was the person that motivated Sharon to take the NYPD test.

Sharon became a cop in 2004 and would leave when needed for the Army. She was promoted in the NYPD as a Sergeant and

promoted to the rank of Captain in the NYPD. Sharon will soon complete 20 years in the Army and is thinking of continuing her career with the NYPD. She would be given her assignment in January 2017 and it would be great if she is assigned to the local precinct with its diverse population.

Sharon worships at the Arya Spiritual Center and she is proud to be a Hindu. She likes to read and to listen to the musical group 'Three Doors Down' and the Indian playback singer, Mukesh.

Captain Sharon Balli has done well and we are proud of her. She is a wonderful role model to all, especially the youths of the community. We wish Sharon and her family all the best in the future.