

MANY NFL RELATIVES IN THE MILITARY

Like many Americans, NFL players and coaches have either served – or have people close to them who have served – in the United States’ military. It is this brave and noble call to service that is part of the foundation of America’s birth, history, and freedoms.

SHONN RICHARDSON, the sister of Kansas City’s Pro Bowl fullback **TONY RICHARDSON**, is an Army staff sergeant in South Korea. Though Sgt. Richardson is stationed more than 6,500 miles from Arrowhead Stadium, she could be no closer to her brother’s heart.

“I feel very honored and blessed to have my sister serving and protecting this great nation,” says Richardson. “She is truly one of my heroes.”

U.S. Marine **JOSHUA CLARK**, the younger brother of Oakland’s six-year linebacker **DANNY CLARK**, returned home this past June after serving several months in Iraq. Joshua Clark was initially dispatched to South Asia to help victims of the 2004 tsunami and was eventually dispatched from there to Iraq.

The Marine spent six months driving a truck and carrying a .50-caliber gun. When the younger Clark returned home, he was welcomed by his older brother’s open arms.

“I saw him and we hugged for 25 minutes,” says the Raiders’ Clark. “To go through turmoil like that, it brings you closer to the people you care about. It was a humbling, emotional experience to see him.”

After viewing his Marine brother’s photos of war-torn Iraq and its citizens aiming to build a better country, the Oakland linebacker said, “It made me appreciate the freedom we have in the United States.”

Linebacker **ROBERT MC CUNE**, selected in the fifth round in the 2005 NFL Draft by Washington, may have traveled one of the most inspiring roads to the NFL. The 26-year-old rookie from Louisville is an Army veteran who spent six months in Kuwait and one year in Korea during his three-year tour of duty. McCune first went to college on the G.I. Bill before earning his football scholarship with Louisville.

“The whole time I was in the military, I worked out every day,” says McCune. “I stayed in shape even when we were in the desert.” To stay in top physical condition, McCune’s workout regimen included curling a 50-pound rock while sitting on a jeep.

McCune survived monsoons in Korea which forced him to sleep on a roof to stay above rushing water. In Kuwait, where he drove a fuel truck, he became accustomed to hearing gunshots while inside his tent at night.

His military obligation behind him, McCune stays in touch with his Army buddies overseas, some of whom are now serving in Iraq.

“They call me and tell me some of the things going on,” says McCune. “It’s scary over there and you always have to be alert. When people walk up to you, you never know what they are going to do.”

Cornerback **C.C. BROWN**, a Houston Texans sixth-round selection this year from Louisiana-Lafayette, was excused from the club’s final minicamp practice to rejoin his National Guard unit in Mississippi in June. Brown’s unit has not been called for duty overseas, but is prepared to go to Afghanistan if needed. The Texans have no second thoughts about selecting the National Guardsman.

“When you have a chance to get a young man with the talent that we got in C.C. Brown, I’d jump up and do it again 10 more times,” says Houston head coach **DOM CAPERS**.

A list of NFL players and coaches with close-to-home ties to our country’s military:

NAME	TEAM	MILITARY TIE
C Eugene Amano	Tennessee	Father served in Navy for 25 years
RB Mike Anderson	Denver	Served in Marines for four years after high school
T Shawn Andrews	Philadelphia	Brother is staff sergeant first class in Army
Linebackers Coach Chris Beake	Atlanta	Served Air Force as a civil engineer officer from 1995-98
LB Derrick Brooks	Tampa Bay	Cousin is sergeant first class in Army
CB C.C. Brown	Houston	Currently in National Guard; unit is prepared for Afghanistan if needed
WR Tyrone Calico	Tennessee	Father served in Marines, including time in Operation Desert Storm
LB Danny Clark	Oakland	Marine brother served six mos. in Iraq; another brother serving Air Force
LB Donnie Edwards	San Diego	Grandparents served in World War II & Korean War; sister was in Navy
CB Drayton Florence	San Diego	Father is a retired Army medic; sister is currently serving in Army
C Hank Fraley	Philadelphia	Brother was stationed with Army in Iraq; father is a Vietnam Veteran
RB Ahmad Galloway	San Diego	Father is a retired Navy warrant officer
DE Michael Haynes	Chicago	Father served in the Air Force; mother served in the Army
RB Priest Holmes	Kansas City	Father is a master sergeant in Army Reserves; served in Iraq
LB Dhani Jones	Philadelphia	Father is a Navy commander
G Chris Liwienski	Minnesota	Brother currently serves in Army
LB Robert McCune	Washington	Served three years in Army: one year in Korea, six months in Kuwait
RB Sammy Morris	Miami	Father was an Air Force staff sergeant
TE Justin Peelle	San Diego	Grandfather is a retired Navy captain
Asst. Special Teams Coach Mike Priefer	N.Y. Giants	Served Navy (1991-94), flew helicopters and was stationed in Persian Gulf
WR Josh Reed	Buffalo	Brother (Army) and cousin (Navy) recently served in Iraq
FB Tony Richardson	Kansas City	Father was sergeant major in Army; sister serving Army in South Korea
Defensive Coordinator Ron Rivera	Chicago	Father was Army officer; Ron lived in three countries as a child
DT Randy Starks	Tennessee	Father served in Army for 20 years
DE Michael Strahan	N.Y. Giants	Father served in Army
WR Coach Mike Sullivan	N.Y. Giants	Graduate of Army Airborne, Ranger and Air Assault schools
Special Teams Coord. Mike Sweatman	N.Y. Giants	Four yrs. of active duty with Marines; 26 yrs in Marines Corps Reserve
Defensive Backs Coach Steve Szabo	Buffalo	Served in Marines from 1965-69, including one year in Vietnam
CB Charles Tillman	Chicago	Father was Army sergeant; Charles attended 11 schools in 13 years
K Lawrence Tynes	Kansas City	Father served Navy as a master chief
Asst. Off. Line/TE Coach Tom Verducci	Buffalo	Attended U.S. Merchant Marine Academy – Kings Point, NY
Defensive Line Coach Mike Waufle	N.Y. Giants	Served three years in Marine Corps
WR Troy Williamson	Minnesota	Brother is a career Marine, just returned from Iraq; sister serves in Navy

