



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

*Former Miramont Server Sheila Domke*

by **RUSTY BURSON** *Director of Membership and Communications*

At 5-foot-2 with a slender physique and a sparkling smile and personality, Sheila Domke was often referred to by Miramont Members as “adorable,” “cute,” “petite” and “sweet” during her time as a server at the Club.

While all of those adjectives certainly are applicable, there’s definitely another side of Sheila that the Members didn’t always see. She is as determined as she is diminutive. She’s as gritty as she is graceful.

Indeed, there’s a tenaciously tough side to Sheila Domke that propelled her to fulfill her lifelong dream of becoming a military police officer in the Marine Corps.

“It has definitely been all that I had imagined,” she said from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in San Diego County, California. “It’s been a firehose of information every day. I kind of got thrown into the deep end of the water right away. The job I am doing now as a military police officer usually requires a person having about five months of being an assistant. I only had two weeks of being an assistant when I was told the job was mine. I will be here at Camp Pendleton for about two years, and then I will be sent to the East Coast, Hawaii or Okinawa.”

Sheila, who worked as a server and bartender at Miramont from the fall of 2016 to February 2020, completed Officer Candidate School and the Basic School in Quantico, Virginia for six months. She was then sent to Camp Pendleton for on-the-job training, and in April, she was sent to Military Police Officer School.

She is now a Watch Commander with the Provost Marshals Office at MCB Camp Pendleton.

“It is always trial by fire around here,” she said. “As an officer, they tend to give you more than you think you can handle. You don’t have the option to say ‘no.’ I have been consistently handed situations that

I definitely felt I was not qualified for doing. But I have just essentially been told, ‘Figure it out.’ They are constantly challenging you. Just this morning I had two calls for individuals who needed CPR. The first individual was a 68-year-old man who had a heart attack on the golf course, and the second one was a 2-year-old boy. My own heart rate was jumping as I answered those calls.”

While she is sure that there are plenty of more challenges in front her, Sheila has grown more confident about her ability to tackle anything, even the most physically daunting tasks. After all, she has already proven herself capable of more than she ever imagined.

“At the school I was at when I left Miramont, I had two hikes where the weight of what we were carrying was either equivalent to my body weight or about 10 pounds heavier. I currently weigh 125 pounds. But at the time, I was about 113 because of how much I had been sweating. One of the packs was 110 pounds, and the other was 125. One was a one-mile hike, and the second was a two-mile hike. I was super proud of myself when I completed those. My father, Kurt Domke, was also a Marine. He is super proud of me. Not only was he a Marine, but he was also a police officer for 25 years, so he loves hearing my stories.”

Sheila says she misses hearing the stories from all of the Miramont Members who became like extended family through the years. She says she also thinks about her time at Miramont constantly.

“I miss all of the people at Miramont,” she said. “Everybody who knows me from my time in the Marine Corps knows all about Miramont because I am talking about it all the time. There are so many times I think about, from the Members to the people I worked with during that time. The people at Miramont made a huge impact on me, and I will always think fondly of them.”