



Jessica Shannon is a mother, wife, educator, and veteran. She grew up in rural Ohio and enlisted in the United States Air Force when she was 17. She served six years as an Arabic cryptologic linguist, primarily assigned to Fort Gordon (now Fort Eisenhower), Georgia. As a first-generation college student, she earned her college degrees as a non-traditional student while serving in the Air Force and later as a mother to small children.

Jessica understands the challenges associated with earning a college degree as a working servicemember, military spouse, mother, and veteran supported by the GI Bill. Her journey included taking classes at night while serving full-time as a cryptologic linguist assigned to the National Security Agency. Post-Air Force service, she took classes as a mother and Army wife. Later, she

homeschooled each of her children through elementary school and, in the past several years, worked as a part-time elementary school teacher in both New York and Georgia.

Jessica completed her culturally based education in Modern Standard Arabic from the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Monterey, CA. She earned an associate in applied science degree in Communications Application Technology from the Community College of the Air Force and an Associate of Arts degree in Education from Georgia Military College. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies with depths in Arabic and Psychology from Excelsior University and a Master of Arts in Teaching – Elementary Education from Liberty University.

Jessica is married to Michael Shannon, a retired United States Army officer and the president of the University of North Georgia. The Shannons met at Fort Gordon and married in historic Augusta, Georgia. They have four children – Rachel, Danica, Hunter, and Bram and an energetic springer doodle named Dubby.

Jessica is passionate about her family and serving others. She loves spending time with her family, teaching young children, cheering on her kids' teams, going for walks, and working in her garden.

Jessica is strongly committed to inspiring students to press through challenges and adversity to finish their college degrees. She believes that the journey of a UNG Nighthawk will help develop the lifelong tools needed to walk towards a greater purpose.