

## **Brigadier General Coral Wong Pietsch, U.S. Army Reserve (Retired)**

Born to a Chinese immigrant father from Canton, China who had come to the United States to start a Chinese restaurant, and a Czech-American mother, Coral W. Pietsch grew up in Waterloo, Iowa. She earned a bachelor's degree in theatre from the College of St. Teresa and a master's degree in drama from Marquette University. She earned her juris doctor degree from The Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law. While attending law school, she met her future husband, James H. Pietsch; he retired as an Army judge advocate in 2000.

Commissioned into the Judge Advocate General's Corps in 1974, Pietsch served for four years on active duty in Korea and Hawaii, before transferring to the Army Reserve. After active duty, she served as a deputy attorney general for the State of Hawaii for six years. She then became a civilian attorney at Headquarters, U.S. Army Pacific, Fort Shafter, rising to be the senior civilian attorney at USARPAC and chief of the Civil Law Division in the staff judge advocate's office. She supervised a staff of attorneys whose areas of expertise included administrative law, contract law, environmental law, ethics, fiscal law, operational law, and personnel and labor law for a major Army command, whose area of responsibility covers half of the earth's surface.

During her Army Reserve career, BG Pietsch held assignments as the contract law officer and claims officer at Headquarters, IX Corps (Augmentation), Fort DeRussy, Hawaii; contract law officer, chief of legal assistance, and chief of the administrative law division at Headquarters, IX Corps (Reinforcement), Fort DeRussy; and as the staff judge advocate, 9th U.S. Army Reserve Command, Fort DeRussy.

In February 1996, she was recalled to active duty and served for six months as the staff judge advocate for U.S. Army Pacific. Pietsch's civilian and Army Reserve jobs have sent her often to the far-flung reaches of USARPAC's area of responsibility. As a soldier in the 9th ARCOM, she has gone to Japan for the Yama Sakura exercise. As an Army civilian employee, she has gone to tiny Johnston Atoll, located some 825 miles southwest of Hawaii, to take part in chemical accident/incident response exercises

As a reservist she deployed to Johnston Atoll, Japan, the Philippines, and Iraq. She served as Chair of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, with her term expiring while deployed.

On November 1, 2011, President Obama nominated her to the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as his replacement for Judge William P. Greene, who had reached the end of his 15-year term. The U.S. Senate confirmed BG Pietsch as the newest judge of the Court of Appeals on May 24, 2012. Her fifteen-year term will expire in 2027.