

Sgt. Wilson to Work with Race Relations at Ft. Wainwright

From behind a neat desk, filled with schedules, books, memos and art pens, he spoke in his familiar manner-as though you were a very close friend-and leaned back in his modest chair while describing his interests

and ambitions.

Staff Sergeant Thomas Wilson created a very relaxed atmosphere for talking and listening, a trait that makes him outstanding in his field of teaching and counseling soldiers for the Army's relatively new race relations program.

The candid sergeant recently became the NCOIC of the Post Race Relations/Equal Opportunity Office, succeeding Sergeant First Class Robert L. Stuart, who is retiring this month.

"One of my highest ambitions is to do well in following Sergeant Stuart's work," he said. "I have a lot of ideas to contribute to the (race relations) program."

"Race relations is the best field I could be in," continued the sergeant. "There just isn't enough I can do."

Sergeant Wilson completed schooling at the Department of

Defense Race Relations Institute at Patrick AFB, Florida, last month.

"I think that the program was long overdue," he said. "But I'm glad to be active in race relations and have found tremendous satisfaction since I attended my first session."

His first session was an NCO course, conducted by Lieutenant John H. Hannah III, post race relations officer. The lieutenant asked Sergeant Wilson to join his staff. "I jumped at the opportunity," he recalls.

Aside from race relations, Sergeant Wilson has many other interests. Art, sketched in an impressionistic style is his most pursued hobby.

In addition to the many freelance art jobs, he has also drawn front-page sketches and other illustrations for the Sentinel. This week's Sentinel front page is an example of his artistic ability.

"My favorite type art is speed drawing," he explained. "You can call SSG Wilson today and have your order tomorrow!"

He is currently designing two symbols for race relations, a patch and an insignia, both of which he will enter in a contest currently underway.

The talented sergeant includes wood work among his hobbies. He designs, builds and sculpts wood as art and furnishings.

With all of these interests, he still adds activities to his busy schedule. He is teaching himself to speed read, plans to enroll in summer classes at the University of Alaska and is an active family man.

The 29-year-old sergeant, a native of Lansing, Michigan, married his wife, Andrea, 11 years ago. The couple and their three children, Thomas, 4, Carrie, 1½ and Stephanie, three months, plan to travel and camp

this summer.

He has worked in the supply field until after he arrived here last March.

His future success both in race relations and his hobbies is sure to be promising, because he is, in his own words, "very aggressive."