



Desiree Gordon is a single mom, a professor, a children's author, and a retired U.S. Army veteran. She was raised on a tobacco farm in Hemingway, South Carolina, and joined the Army at age 18, to escape the rigors of small farm life. She served nearly 21 years in the military, before retiring as a U.S. Army Sergeant First Class on October 1, 2009. She completed two combat tours: the Gulf War, 1991-1992, and in Operation Enduring Freedom, 2005-

2006. She also served two years as a Drill Sergeant at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

She holds a bachelor's degree in public relations from Bowie State University, and master's degrees in management and leadership, and human resources development, from Webster University.

Desiree is a passionate teacher and mentor, who helps others cope with their life's journeys through her writing. She currently teaches as an adjunct professor at Midlands Technical College in Columbia, South Carolina, and online classes at Virginia Highlands Community College in Abington, Virginia. She was recently featured in the second episode of the SCETV and PBS docuseries, *After Action*, about veterans' lives before, during, and after the military.

Her two daughters, Kennide and Kinsley, are the inspirations behind her popular children's book series, "Grace and Mia".