Darin enlisted in the Army in 1987 as a Combat Engineer. After serving in Germany and Ft. Carson, Colorado, he arrived at Colorado State to study Exercise and Sport Science.

A Distinguished Military Graduate in 1997, Darin branched Medical Service Corps and served in multiple leadership and staff roles in the continental United States as well as abroad.

Upon retiring in 2014, The Harper family moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, where he is a firearms salesman. Darin's wife, Jessica, is a Physician Assistant, and they have two daughters Kacey (a nurse with the University of Colorado health system) and Jordan (a student at the University of Nebraska).