

Mountain Ranger Battalion Army ROTC

University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Colorado State University - Pueblo

Colorado College

Colorado Technical University

Pikes Peak Community College



*Commissioning
Ceremony*

May 14, 2022

Mountain Ranger Battalion History

The history of the ROTC program at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs began in 1965 along with the founding of the college, although at this time it was not the host school. Colorado College was the host institution until unrest at the college forced the ROTC program to be moved. Soon after the ROTC program left Colorado College it was temporarily located at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, until the University of Southern Colorado, now known as Colorado State University-Pueblo, became the host school.

Due to the increased possibilities for Army officers in the Colorado Springs area, the University of Colorado Colorado Springs applied for, and was granted, Host Institution status in 1981. In August 1983, the University of Colorado Colorado Springs ROTC Company was reorganized as a cadet battalion of two cadet companies and renamed the "Mountain Ranger Battalion." As of September 2007, the Mountain Ranger Battalion is made up of many schools, including the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, Colorado State University-Pueblo, The Colorado College, Pikes Peak Community College, Colorado Technical University, Regis University, Devry University, Webster University, National American University, and Colorado Christian University.

The Mountain Rangers have received high praise, being named the best trained ROTC Battalion in the nation in 1987, 1989, and 1999. The program was named the winner of the MacArthur Award in both 1990 and 1991, designating it as the "Best ROTC Battalion, Small College" in the nation, and most recently for the 2013-2014 school year as the best Army ROTC program in 5th Brigade, consisting of 36 programs across 8 states. In October 2014, the Ranger Challenge Team brought home the first place trophy from the Regional Competition – the first time since 2007.

Whether the Mountain Rangers are climbing Pikes Peak, basking in the sun of White Sands, New Mexico at the Bataan Memorial Death March, playing intramural sports, or excelling at training events such as our FTXs and Advanced Camp, one thing is certain: the Mountain Rangers train in a challenging environment which produces high quality future Army warrior leaders.

Battalion Cadre and Staff

Professor of Military Science

Lieutenant Colonel Chad Henderson - *Adjutant General Corps*

Senior Instructor

Master Sergeant Ruben Baltierra - *Infantry*

Military Instructors

Major Greg Hope - *Armor*

Captain Ethan Heckmann - *Infantry*

Sergeant First Class Joaquin Torres - *Infantry*

Sergeant First Class Paul Gallo - *Air Defense Artillery*

Sergeant First Class Caleb Crosby - *Infantry*

Recruiting Operations Officer

Mr. Donald Caughey

Human Resources Assistant

Ms. Nancy Silva

Battalion Supply Technician

Mr. Todd Emmert

University Liaison

Ms. Laura Mancini

The Leadership Excellence Patch



The patch is in the shape of a shield. It symbolizes the Army mission of national defense and is divided into quarters representing the four traditional Military Science courses comprising the Senior ROTC curriculum. The motto "Leadership Excellence" expresses the ultimate responsibility of Army ROTC in the discharge of its moral responsibility to the Nation.

THE LAMP

denotes the pursuit of knowledge, higher learning, and the partnership of Army ROTC with American colleges and universities.

THE HELMET

is symbolic of the ancient civilization concept of the warrior scholar.

THE SWORD

signifies courage, gallantry, and self-sacrifice intrinsic to the profession of arms.

Sequence of Events

Introduction

Major Greg Hope

National Anthem

Invocation

Mr. Todd Emmert

Opening Remarks

Lieutenant Colonel Chad Henderson

Guest Speaker

Brigadier General Michelle M.T. Letcher

Commissioning Oath / Pinning / First Salutes

Benediction

Mr. Todd Emmert

Army Song



Guest Speaker

BG Michelle M.T. Letcher



Brigadier General Michelle M. T. Letcher is a native of Oak Forest, Illinois, and was commissioned in the Air Defense Artillery branch via the Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1995. She was branch detailed and became an Ordnance Officer in 1997. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work from Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois, and a Master of Science in Human Services and Counseling from the State University of New York College, a Masters in Advanced Military Studies from the Command and General Staff College, and a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas.

Brigadier General. Letcher is currently serving as Chief of Staff at Army Futures Command, Austin, Texas.

Her previous assignments include: Commandant, United States Army Ordnance School, United States Army Sustainment Center of Excellence in Fort Lee, Virginia; Commander, Joint Munitions Command and the Joint Munitions and Lethality, Life Cycle Management Command in Rock Island, Illinois; Commander, 16th Sustainment Brigade in Baumholder, Germany; Commander, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion in Grafenwoehr, Germany, where she deployed the unit to combat operations in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom 12-13; Commander, B Company, 26th Forward Support Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Georgia, where she deployed the company to Iraq during combat operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom 1; and Launcher Platoon Leader, 1-43 Air Defense Artillery Battalion, Osan Air Base, Korea.

Her key staff assignments include: Executive Officer to the Commanding General, Army Materiel Command, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama; Deputy Support Operations Officer, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Fort Hood, Texas; Lt. Col. Assignment Officer, Human Resources Command, Fort Knox, Kentucky; Support Operations Officer, 189th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Sustainment Planner, 18th Airborne Corps and Multi-National Corps-Iraq, Baghdad, Iraq; Observer/Controller for the BCT S4 and BSB Staff at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California; Battalion S-3, 26th Forward Support Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division and Battalion S-4 and Maintenance Control Officer, 710th Main Support Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, New York. Her military education includes Air Defense Artillery Basic Officer Leader Course, Ordnance Basic Munitions Management Officer Course, Combined Logistics Officer Advanced Course, Command and General Staff Officer Course, the School of Advanced Military Studies, Senior Service College Fellowship at the University of Texas at Austin and the Joint and Combined Warfighting School.

Brigadier General Letcher's military awards include the Legion of Merit (3 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Bronze Star Medal (2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters) and the Meritorious Service Medal (Silver Oak Leaf Cluster).

Brigadier General Letcher is married to Colonel Kenneth Letcher and they have three sons, Thomas Allen (17), Tyler (14), and Trevor (11).

Oath of Office

" I, (STATE YOUR FULL NAME), having been appointed

an officer in the Army of the United States, as indicated

above in the grade of (Second Lieutenant) do solemnly

swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the

Constitution of the United States against all enemies,

foreign and domestic, that I will bear true faith and

allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely,

without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion;

and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of

the office upon which I am about to enter;

So help me God."

The Soldiers Creed

The Army Song

"The Army Goes Rolling Along"

Official Song of the U.S. Army

Verse

March along, sing our song, with the Army of the free.
Count the brave, count the true, who have fought to victory.
We're the Army and proud of our name!
We're the Army and proudly proclaim:

Chorus

First to fight for the right,
And to build the Nation's might,
And the Army goes rolling along.
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle's won,
And the Army goes rolling along.

Refrain

Then it's hi! hi! hey!
The Army's on its way.
Count off the cadence loud and strong;
For where'er we go,
You will always know
That The Army Goes Rolling Along

I am an American Soldier.

I am a Warrior and a member of a team.

I serve the people of the United States, and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.

I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy, the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

Commissionees

Zarafina Aninion



Zarafina Aninion was born in Orlando, FL on February 6, 1997. She enlisted into the United States Army on August 31, 2015. She attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, SC and completed Advanced Individual Training at Fort Still, OK. She earned the MOS of 14T Patriot Launching Station Enhanced Operator/ Maintainer. Her first assignment was 1-43 Air Defense Artillery Battalion, 11th Brigade. While with 1-43 ADA, she deployed to Qatar in support of Operation Inherent Resolve from 2016-2017. From 2018-2019 she deployed to the United Arab Emirates in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. While assigned to 1-43 ADA she was accepted into the Green to Gold Active Duty Option Program at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and minor in Military Science, summa cum laude. She branched Medical Service Corps and will attend Basic Officer Leaders Course at Fort Sam Houston, TX with a follow on assignment at Fort Hood, TX.

Samuel Arnold



Samuel Thomas Arnold was born in Fort Knox, KY, on May 29, 1992 and grew up in Southeast Missouri. He graduated from Doniphan High School in 2010 and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. After MOS school, he served in Okinawa, Japan, with the 3rd Marine Division and was attached to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. In 2013 he PCS'd to Camp Pendleton, where he worked in the 1st Marine Division as his shop's NCOIC. He EAS'd in 2014 and attended college before enlisting in the Army. He attended AIT at Fort Sam Houston, TX earning the MOS 68W, and was assigned to 62nd Medical Brigade, 520th Area Support Medical Company at JBLM, Washington. He served as a Team Leader in the Evacuation Platoon before being promoted to SGT and serving as a Squad Leader with the Treatment Platoon. He was awarded a Green to Gold Hip Pocket Scholarship in 2019 to pursue a degree in Business Administration. During his time in the military, he has earned the Expert Field Medical Badge, (1) ARCOM, (2) AAM (1), NAM, and attended the Army Best Medic Competition in 2017 and 2018. Samuel branched Air Defense Artillery and will be attending Basic Officers Leadership Course at Fort Sill, OK. His follow-on assignment is Kadena Air Force Base, Japan.

Bradley Vander Veen



Bradley J. Vander Veen was born in Sioux City, IA in 1993 and raised in Homer, NE. On December 31, 2013, he enlisted in the Army as an M1A2 Abrams Armored Crewman. Following his completion of One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, GA in May 2014, he was assigned to Charlie Company, 2-12 Cav, 1st Brigade, Fort Hood, TX. He was selected to serve as the 2-12 CAV battalion commander's gunner from January 2017 to January 2018. He was assigned to Bravo Company 1-68th Armor 3rd Brigade, Fort Carson, CO. Following, he was selected for ROTC at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. Upon entering the ROTC program Bradley joined the Colorado Army National Guard and was assigned to Delta Company, 2-135th GSAB Aviation located at Buckley Space Force Base.

His rotations include Germany (Combined Resolve III) 2014, South Korea 2016, and Kuwait (Operation Spartan Shield) 2019.

His awards include Army Commendation Medal (3), Army Achievement Medal (9), Meritorious Unit Commendation (1), Army Good Conduct Medal (2), National Defense Service Medal, Global War of Terrorism Service Medal, Global War of Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (2), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Korean Defense Service Medal, Air Assault Badge, Drivers Badge (Track) Excellence in Armor, the Order of Saint George (Bronze Medallion) and the Army Certificate of Achievement (5).

His military education includes Air Assault School, Tactical Combat Medical Care, Army Basic Instructor Course, Combative Level 1, Combat Life Saver, Battle Staff Course, Unit Publications Officer, Basic Leaders Course, Advanced Leaders Course, Contracting Officers Course, Unit Prevention Leader, and the Master Drivers Course.

Bradley earned a Bachelor of Innovation in Museum Studies and Gallery Practices with a Minor in German and Military Sciences, magna cum laude. He is a member of the German National Honors Society, SALUTE Veterans Honors Society, National Society of Leadership and Success, and UCCS Lead. Bradley served as President of the German Club, ROTC Club, UCCS Rucking Club, Bataan Club and as the Military Science Ambassador for the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences. He has also been accepted into the University of Colorado Boulder's Graduate Program - Archeology. He branched Aviation and will attend flight school at Fort Rucker, AL.

Justin Talalotu



Justin Talalotu was born at Fort Campbell, KY on July 9, 1989, and enlisted on July 9, 2007. He attended Basic Training at Fort Benning, GA and Advance individual Training at Fort Sam Houston, TX. His first assignment was Ft. Bragg, NC, as an oral maxillofacial assistant at Womack Army Medical Center. His next assignment was 1st Special Forces Group(A), Fort Lewis, WA. In 2011, Justin deployed to Afghanistan as part of an augmented medical team assigned to CJSOTF(A). He served as an AMEDD Recruiter from 2016 - 2019, assigned to the Kansas City Medical Recruiting Station. After completion he was assigned to 618th DCAS, as the Area North Platoon Sergeant at Camp Casey, South Korea. He was selected for the Green to Gold program in 2019 and branched Medical Service Corps. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science from University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

His military education includes Basic Leaders Course, Advanced Leaders Course, Army Recruiting Course, Health Care Recruiter Course, Airborne School, Air Assault School, SHARP foundation course, Combat Life Savers Course, Unit Preventions Leader Course, Master Driver Course, Combative Level 1.

His military awards and decorations include Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (9), Army Achievement Medal (10), Army Good Conduct Medal (4), National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (2), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, and Korean Defense Service Medal. He has earned the Parachutist Badge, Expert Field Medical Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the Recruiting Badge. Justin is also an active member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

Daphney Black



Daphney Black was born in Haiti on February 16, 1989. She joined the Army in 2012 as a (91J) Army quartermaster and chemical equipment repairer and was assigned to Fort Bragg, NC after Initial Entry Training. While assigned to the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, Black served as the Orderly Room NCOIC and was responsible for administrative processes and quality control for all Soldiers within the company. She then reclassified to (46S) Public Affairs Mass Communication Specialist and was assigned to Fort Carson, CO. She was selected into the Green to Gold Active Duty Option Program at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs while assigned to the 14th Public Affairs Detachment, 4th Infantry Division.

Her military awards and decorations include Army Commendation Medal (2), Army Achievement Medal (5), Army Good Conduct Medal (3), National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (2), Driver/Mechanic Badge.

She earned a Bachelor of Science in Organizational and Strategic Communication with a minor in Military Science. She married Christian Black in 2014, and they have two sons, CJ and Zachary. She branched Medical Service Corps and will attend Basic Officer Leader Course at Fort Sam Houston, TX. Her follow-on assignment is Fort Drum, NY

Dawson Calloway



Dawson Christian Calloway was born May 8, 2000, in Fayetteville, NC at Fort Bragg. He is the son of SFC (R) Ray Calloway who served as an Airborne Air Defense Artillery NCO and Kelly Calloway who serves our community as a preschool teacher for District 49. He has one brother, Devon and a late brother, Daniel as well as a childhood best friend that is an extended family member, Cameron Lattemore. He attended

Liberty High School in Colorado Springs and graduated May 2018. He has played soccer from the age of 4 and has traveled across the country to compete with teams from around the world. He capped off his career with a state championship before attending college. Dawson received a scholarship to play soccer at Adams State University in Alamosa, CO before coming back to Colorado Springs. He decided to attend the University of Colorado Colorado Springs to pursue his degree and enrolled in Army ROTC. Dawson earned a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Military Science. He is commissioning as an Air Defense Artillery Officer. Dawson will go on to Basic Officers Leaders Course at Fort Sill, OK. His follow-on assignment is pending.

Citlally Davila-Ruiz



Citlally Guadalupe Davila-Ruiz was born in Colorado Springs, CO on July 5, 1999. She is the daughter of Jesus and Veronica Davila. Citlally is the second oldest of four siblings. Citlally graduated from Woodland Park High School in Woodland Park, CO in 2017. Citlally decided to attend the University of Colorado Colorado Springs in the Spring of 2018. She earned a bachelor's in Criminal Justice and minors in Sociology and Military Science, magna cum laude. Citlally is the first in her family to attend college and earn a bachelor's degree. She will also be the first in her family to serve in the United States military. Citlally married her husband, CPL Theron Sanders in May 2020. She branched Adjutant General Corps and will attend Basic Officer Leader Course at Fort Jackson, SC. Her follow-on assignment is Fort Campbell, KY.

Samuel Davis



Samuel Dean Davis was born on June 19, 2000 in Torrington, Wyoming and was raised in Rush, CO by his parents Timmothy and Sarah Davis along with his nine siblings. He graduated from Miami Yoder High School in 2018 and attended University of Colorado Colorado Springs that fall. During his first fall semester, Samuel enlisted in the Colorado Army National Guard and contracted into the Army ROTC Program to be a part of the Simultaneous Membership Program through the Minuteman Scholarship. During his time in the National Guard, he was assigned to the 928th Medical Corps Area Support unit on Fort Carson as an acting platoon leader to obtain higher training to better serve the National Guard upon commissioning. He has accepted a Letter of Offer and Acceptance to become an Adjutant General officer in the Wyoming National Guard and will be assigned to a unit in Cheyenne, WY. Samuel earned a bachelor's degree in Biology with an emphasis in Biomedical Sciences. He will attend Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Jackson, SC. Once his army training is complete, he will prepare to take medical entrance exams and complete clinical training to attend a Physician's Assistant program and eventually become a Pediatric Physician's Assistant specializing in children with disabilities.

Yessenia Sanchez Prieto



Yessenia Sanchez Prieto was born in Paramount, California on December 25, 1996, and raised in Millsboro, Delaware. She is a first-generation American, the first to join the military and the first to go to college in her family. She enlisted in the Army on September 5, 2017. She attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. She completed Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sam Houston, TX, where she earned the MOS of 68W; Combat Medic. She was stationed at United States Army Health Clinic-Vicenza, while stationed at USAHC-V she was accepted into the Army's Green to Gold Active-Duty Option Program at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, summa cum laude from UCCS. She is happily married to Lucas Johnson, with whom she shares a cat named Cleo. She branched Adjutant General Corps and will attend Basic Officer Leaders Course at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Her follow-on assignment is Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea.

Isaac Savoy



Isaac Anthony Savoy was born in Colorado Springs, CO on April 3, 2000. He is the son of Mr. George Savoy, a USAFA graduate and retired US Army Armor Officer and Mrs. Glenda Savoy, a local middle school teacher. He is the youngest of three siblings: Geordon, Jacob, and Katey. He graduated from Liberty High School with high honors in 2018. Isaac attended the University of Colorado Colorado Springs and earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology with minors in Military Science, Biochemistry, and General Communications, summa cum laude. He one day aspires to be a certified Orthotist and Prosthetist, fashioning corrective braces and artificial limbs. Isaac is commissioning as an Ordnance Officer into the Arizona Army National Guard to live near his future wife, Lauren Fletcher who is attending Veterinary School at Midwestern University in Phoenix. After their wedding, he will attend Logistics Basic Officers Leader Course at Fort Lee, VA.

Felipe Melendez



Felipe Melendez was born in Frankfurt, Germany on January 12, 1987 and raised in Colorado Springs, CO. He graduated from Harrison High School in 2005 and received an Associate of Arts from Otero Junior College in 2007. Felipe enlisted in the Army on March 8, 2008 and attended basic training and AIT at Fort Benning, GA, attaining the MOS 11B.

Upon AIT completion, Felipe volunteered for duty as 89D (Explosive Ordnance Technician). He graduated from EOD training in October 2009. His first assignment was 749th Ordnance Company (EOD), Fort Wainwright, AK. He was selected as the EOD Team Leader for a Joint Pacific Accountability Command (JPAC) mission to Vietnam. His next assignment was 706th Ordnance Company (EOD), Schofield Barracks, HI, as an EOD Team Sergeant, followed by 749th Ordnance Company (EOD), at Fort Carson, CO as an EOD Team Leader. Felipe deployed to Afghanistan twice while with the 749th Ordnance Company (EOD) in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel and Operation Enduring Freedom. Felipe was selected to the Green-to-Gold program in 2019 and attended Colorado State University - Pueblo.

His military education includes Airborne School, EOD Phase 1, EOD Basic Course, Basic Leader Course, HAZMAT Certifier Course, Combatives Level 1, Combat Life Saver, Bus Driver Course, Master Driver, Advance Diagnostics, Master Fitness Trainer, Joint Nuclear EOD Course, Advance Leader Course, and Advanced Improvised Explosive Devices Course.

His military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (2), Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal (V device), Army Commendation Medal (C device), Army Commendation Medal (3), Army Achievement Medal (V device), Army Achievement Medal (4), Joint Meritorious Unit Achievement Medal, Valorous Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal (4), National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (2), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (4), and ISAF NATO Medal. He has earned the Parachutist Badge, Master Explosive Ordnance Disposal Badge, and the Combat Action Badge.

Felipe earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminology. He branched Ordnance Corps (EOD) and will attend the Basic Officer Leaders Course at Fort Lee, VA. His follow-on assignment is Fort Carson, CO.

Ryland Edwards



Ryland Jon Edwards was born in Clarksville, TN on November 12, 1999. He is the only child of 1SG (R) Robert Edwards, a member of the special operations community in the United States Army, and Mrs. Robin Edwards. Ryland attended three different high schools in Vicenza, Italy, and Colorado Springs before graduating from Falcon High School in 2018. Ryland attended the University of Colorado Colorado Springs and earned a bachelor's degree in Finance, magna cum laude. He is also a Distinguished Military Graduate. He branched Military Intelligence, but will be detailed to Infantry Branch. He will attend the Infantry Basic Officers Leader Course at Fort Benning, GA. He one day aspires to work in human intelligence collection and threat finance with various intelligence agencies. His follow-on assignment is pending.

Jennifer Gregory



Jennifer Love Gregory was born in Rocky Mount, NC on August 24, 1998. She enlisted into the Army in October 2016 and attended basic training at Fort Jackson, SC. Jennifer went on to complete Advanced Individual Training as a Signal System Support Specialist where she was Distinguished Honor Graduate. After AIT, she was assigned to 3-4 Helicopter Assault Battalion 4th CAB at Fort Carson, CO. During this assignment, she deployed to Turkey in 2018 in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. After returning she was assigned to 404th Aviation Support Battalion, 4th CAB, where she took on the role of Retransmissions Team leader. She applied to the Green to Gold Active Duty Option Program at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. Jennifer earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Finance. She will attend Engineer Basic Officer Leader Course in Fort Leonard Wood, MO. Her follow on assignment is pending. Jennifer's support system includes her husband, Kendrick and son, Andrew.

Wyatt Lane



Wyatt Lane was born in Denver, CO on March 25, 1998 and raised in Monument, CO. Wyatt graduated from Lewis-Palmer High School in 2016. He began taking classes at UCCS in fall of 2019 and joined the Army ROTC program. He earned a bachelor's in Leadership Communication. Wyatt branched Medical Service Corps and will attend Basic Officer Leader Course in Fort Sam Houston, TX. His follow on assignment is pending.

Ryan Erk



Ryan T. Erk was born at Fort Campbell, KY, on March 28, 1989. On April 26, 2007, he enlisted in the Army as an Infantryman. Following his completion of One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, GA, he was assigned to Able Company, 1-506th Infantry Regiment (Currahee), 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY. He was selected to serve as a Drill Sergeant and Senior Drill Sergeant in Charlie Company 2-54 Infantry Regiment, 198th Training Brigade at Fort Benning, GA, from December 2012 - March 2015. Upon completion, he was assigned to Chaos Company, 2-30th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division at Fort Polk, LA, April 2015 - November 2018. He was selected to be an Observer, Coach, Trainer (OC/T) at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Hohenfels, Germany, where he was assigned as a reconnaissance OC/T Team Leader to train NATO partners and Allies on reconnaissance tasks at the combat training center from November 2018 - August 2020.

His operational deployments include Afghanistan: Operation Enduring Freedom 08-09, Operation Enduring Freedom 10-11, Operation Freedom's Sentinel 15-16. Iraq: Operation Inherent Resolve 18-19. His awards include Meritorious Service Medal (2), Army Commendation Medal W/ C Device (1), Army Commendation Medal (5), Army Achievement Medal (2), Meritorious Unit Commendation (2), Army Good Conduct Medal (4), Nation Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign W/ Campaign Star (4), Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal W/ Campaign Star (1), Global War of Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (3), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (4), NATO Medal (2), Drill Sergeant Identification Badge, Ranger Tab, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Parachutist Badge, and Air Assault Badge.

His military education includes Ranger School, Airborne School, Air Assault School, Pathfinder School, FRIES/SPIES, Joint Fire Power Controller Course, Tactical Combat Medical Care, Drill Sergeant School, Army Basic Instructor Course, Combative Level 1, Mountain Athlete Warrior, Observer Controller Academy, EO Leaders, Master Resilience Trainer Course, Combat Life Saver, Basic Leaders Course, Advanced Leaders Course, and Senior Leaders Course.

Ryan and his wife of 12 years, Morgan, have two children, Tyler and Travis.

Ryan is a Distinguished Military Graduate, recipient of the General George C. Marshall Award, and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Military Science, summa cum laude. He was awarded a Civics Certificate from the Department of Political Science and is a member of the Bastiat Honors Scholars Program. He branched Medical Service Corps. His follow-on assignment is Schofield Barracks, HI.

Josh Hawkins



Josh Hawkins was born in Fairfax, VA on October 14, 1999. He grew up primarily in Colorado and graduated from Pine Creek High School in 2018. Josh earned a bachelor's in Economics, cum laude from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. He branched Military Intelligence but will be detailed to Infantry Branch. Following his commissioning, Josh will attend Infantry Basic Officer Leader's Course at Fort Benning, GA. He hopes to gain pertinent Combat Arms experience before stepping into the Intelligence world. His follow-on assignment is still pending.

Maria Rozo



Maria Rozo was born in Bogota, Colombia on April 18, 1992, and raised in California. She joined the Army in 2011 as an All-Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic and was assigned to Fort Stewart, GA after Initial Entry Training. In 2014, she PCS'd to Fort Hood, TX. During her tenure at 62nd Support Maintenance Company, she deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Upon return, she received orders to 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, while there she was accepted into the Green to Gold Active Duty Option Program at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. She earned a master's in Criminal Justice. She branched Finance with a Chemical Branch detail. She will attend Basic Officer Leader Course at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. Her follow-on assignment is Fort Hood, TX.

Steven Thomas



Steven Phillip Thomas was born on May 17, 1999 and grew up in Pueblo, CO. He is the son of Jim & Maria Thomas. His father proudly served in the US Army during Operation Safe Haven in the country of Panama where met and married Maria, a first-generation American citizen, and caring mother to Steven and his brother John. Steven attended the University of Colorado Colorado Springs and earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Management with a minor in Military Science. Steven branched Armor and will attend Basic Officer Leader Course at Fort Benning, GA. His follow-on assignment is pending.

Andrew King



Andrew James King was born January 18, 1993 and raised in Medford, OR. He joined the Army in 2015 as a Paralegal Specialist and was assigned to Fort Carson, CO after Initial Entry Training. While assigned to the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, he deployed to Afghanistan in 2018 in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. Upon return he was accepted into the Green to Gold Active Duty Option Program at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. He will complete a master's in Public Administration in fall of 2022. He branched Adjutant General. He will attend Basic Officer Leader Course at Fort Jackson, SC. His follow-on assignment is Fort Carson, CO.

Henry Nichols



Henry Nichols was born September 17, 1999 and raised in Silver Spring, MD. He attended Colorado College and joined the ROTC program at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs in 2018 as a freshman. Henry graduated with a bachelor's in History and a minor in Anthropology. He branched Ordnance Corps (EOD), and will attend Ordnance Basic Officers Leaders Course and Phase 1 Explosive Ordnance Disposal School at Fort Lee, VA before attending Phase 2 at Eglin AFB, FL. His follow-on assignment is pending.

Hunter Wall



Hunter Scott Wall was born in El Paso, TX on January 7, 2000. He was raised in Salida, CO, a small mountain town just shy of 7000 people, in the heart of the Rockies. Growing up, Hunter rarely had free time since he devoted all his time to school, sports, and working for his parents in their sports bar. Prior to college and ROTC, Hunter was primarily focused on golf and football. Upon graduating from Salida High School in 2018, Hunter had a handful of offers to play college golf but ultimately chose to attend the University of Colorado Colorado Springs and join ROTC. Hunter earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and branched Corps of Engineers. He is the first person in his family to serve in the military. He will attend Basic Officer Leaders Course at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. His follow-on assignment is pending.

Seth Fenstermaker



Seth Fenstermaker was born in Battle Creek, MI on March 1, 1987. Seth enlisted in the Army on February 19, 2009. He attended Basic Combat Training at Ft. Knox, KY and Advanced Individual Training at Gulfport, MS where he was awarded the MOS of 21W. His first assignment was the 178th Engineer Company, 46th Engineer Battalion (Steel Spike) at Ft. Polk, LA. Seth PCS'd to the 902nd Engineer Company, 15th Engineer Battalion located in Schweinfurt, Germany. After deactivation of the 18th Engineer Brigade, his unit was reassigned to Grafenwoehr, Germany under the 18th Military Police Brigade. His next assignment was with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 705th Military Police Battalion at Fort Leavenworth, KS. He was as a Drill Sergeant at Fort Leonard Wood, MO with Charlie Company, 2-10 Infantry Regiment. Upon completion of that assignment, he was stationed in Fort Bragg, NC with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 20th Engineer Brigade. In 2019, Seth was accepted into the Green to Gold Active Duty Option program at Colorado State University - Pueblo.

His military awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal (5) Army Achievement Medal (9), Good Conduct Medal (3), National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (2), NCO Professional Development Ribbon (3), Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminology and branched Corps of Engineers.

Morgan Miller



Morgan Sue Miller was born in Urbana, IL on August 11, 1998. She was raised in Colorado Springs, CO by Todd and Jill Miller with her two younger siblings, Maddie and Mason. She graduated from Pine Creek High School in 2017. Morgan was awarded a four-year Army ROTC scholarship to the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. Along with the ROTC scholarship, she also earned a scholarship to play lacrosse at UCCS. Morgan's achievements include dean's list all five years, Rocky Mountain Athletic conference academic honor roll for five years, and Veteran of Foreign Wars Medal Award. Morgan earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biology with a Biomedical Sciences Option, minor in Military Science, cum laude. Morgan was applied for and was approved for Education Delay to continue post graduate education after commissioning. She hopes to become a physical therapist.

Jeanille George



Jeanille George was born in Castries, Saint Lucia on August 10, 1991. She moved to the United States in 2007 and graduated from Woodside High School in 2009. Jeanille enlisted in the Army on November 15, 2010 and attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, SC. She attended Advanced Individual Training at Fort Lee, VA, attaining the MOS of 91D, Power Generation Equipment Repairer. She was stationed at Fort Lewis, WA, 542nd Support Maintenance Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, as a Power Generation Equipment Repairer. Jeanille was later assigned to Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea. After completing her tour in Korea, she was assigned to Fort Bliss, TX as the Motor Sergeant for Bravo Company, 31st Combat Support Battalion. She was subsequently stationed at Fort Stewart, GA as the Motor Sergeant for Delta Company, Forward Support Battalion, 6-8 CAV, Infantry Brigade Combat Team. In 2017, she was selected to attend the Drill Sergeant Academy, and assigned to Bravo Company, 3-13th Infantry Battalion as a Drill Sergeant for 2 ½ years. While assigned to 3-13th Infantry Battalion, she was accepted into the Green to Gold Active Duty Program at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Columbia Southern University and was inducted into the National Society of Leadership and Success. Jeanille will complete a master's in Criminal Justice in fall 2022.

Jeanille's awards and decorations include Army Commendation Medals (2), Army Achievement Medals (7), Army Good Conduct Medals (3), National Defense Serve Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon Numeral 3, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, Army Federal Service Medal, Certificates of Achievement (3), Drill Sergeant Identification Badge, Driver and Mechanics Badge.

Her military schools include Equal Opportunity Leaders Course, Basic Leaders Course, Advanced Leaders Course, Senior Leaders Course, Medical Logistics Management Course, Drill Sergeant Academy, Combat Life Savers Course, Demonstrated Logistics Course, Technical Transportation of Hazardous Material, Fuel Handlers Course, Generator Operators Course, Field Sanitation Team Certification, Bus Drivers Course, Unit Prevention Leader (UPL), Combatives Level 1&2.

She married Caroline George on June 3, 2018 and they have three cats, Cheeto, Sebastian, and Draco. She branched Transportation Corps and will be attending Basic Officers Leaders Course at Fort Lee, VA. Her follow-on assignment is pending.

Peterson Itugbu



Peterson Onoriode Itugbu was born in Eschenbach, Germany on June 21, 1996 and raised primarily in Germany, El Paso, TX, and Colorado Springs. He joined the Army in 2016 as a Human Resources Specialist and was assigned to Camp Humphreys, South Korea after Initial Entry Training. While assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, he served as the Enlisted Brigade Strength Specialist and was responsible for USR and DRRS-A reporting. Following this tour, he received orders to Fort Carson, CO, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade. While assigned, he served in almost every section of the Brigade S1 (Enlisted/Officer Strength, Personnel Actions, and Awards). During this assignment, Peterson was selected to serve as the Deputy Secretary to the General Staff. In 2018 he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. While in country, Peterson was awarded a 3 Year Hip Pocket Green to Gold Scholarship at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Strategic Communication with a minor in Military Science. He branched Adjutant General Corps with an Armor Branch detail. He will attend Basic Officer Leader Course at Fort Benning, GA. His follow-on assignment is pending.

Creighton Norton



Creighton Norton was born on May 15, 1990 at Fort Riley, KS, to Timothy and Mary Norton. His father was a career Armor officer in the Army and retired at the rank of LTC. Creighton attended high school in California, upon graduation enlisted in the Army as a 68W Combat Medic. Creighton has served in multiple roles as a medic to include Scout Platoon

Medic for 2/1 CAV Apache Troop, it was in this role he deployed in 2013 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Upon return he was promoted and held the position of Senior Line Medic with Apache Troop 2/1 CAV. In 2016 Cadet Norton was appointed NCOIC of the World Class Athlete Program's Medical team. Creighton was accepted to the Green to Gold Program in 2020. Creighton and his wife Cristina have two children, Victoria (7) and Leonidas (3). He earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminology from Colorado State University - Pueblo. He branched Medical Service Corps and his follow on assignment is Fort Carson, CO.