

LtCol Peter J. Epton

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Epton, a native of Anchorage, Alaska, has been interested in the history and active in the function of our government since high school. His first experience was as an intern with Alaska State Senator Arliss Sturgulewski in 1988. Upon graduation from East Anchorage High School in 1989, he traveled to Washington, DC for an internship with U.S. Senator Frank Murkowski and a summer international studies program at American University. Returning to Alaska, he worked as a Senate Page and then the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms of the Alaska State Senate during the 1990 legislative session.



In 1990, LtCol Epton left Alaska to attend Harding University in Searcy, Ark., where he had numerous opportunities to support youth programs. The summer after his sophomore year was spent traveling to youth camps encouraging academic excellence and recruiting for the University. The spring break of his junior year was spent in Cap-Haitien, Haiti working in an orphanage. The spring break of his senior year, he led a team of 25 students to Long Island, N.Y. to work in an underprivileged youth program. In May 1994, LtCol Epton earned a Bachelor of Arts with honors in History, with a focus in American History, and received his commission in the U. S. Marine Corps.

Following the completion of The Basic Course and designation as a Naval Aviator in June 1997, LtCol Epton served as the Administrative Officer in Marine Medium Helicopter (HMM) Squadron 266 deploying with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit in support of operations in Kosovo. In May 2000, he received orders to 1st BN, 6th MARINES where he served as a Forward Air Controller and deployed to Okinawa. He then received orders to HMM-265 serving as the Flight Line Officer, Quality Assurance Officer and Weapons and Tactics Instructor deploying to numerous countries throughout Asia and finally to Iraq in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

In July 2005, he attended Air Command and Staff College in Montgomery, Alabama receiving a Master of Military Operation Art and Science. Upon graduation, he was ordered to Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he served as the Operations Officer for 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company and deployed to Iraq. He then executed orders to Marine Air Group 39 (MAG-39), MCAS Pendleton where he served as the Operations Officer and Director of Safety and Standardization for HMM-364 deploying for a final time to Iraq. He completed his tour as the MAG-39 Assistant Operations Officer.

LtCol Epton is currently serving as the Deputy, Sea Basing Branch in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Assessment Division (N81). In this capacity, he is responsible for leading capability analyses, conducting programmatic assessments, and advising Navy leadership on decisions that directly affect future Navy and Marine Corps programs. His hard-charging efforts have allowed senior leadership to make informed decisions on multi-billion dollar programs that will shape the naval services in the future.

Upon completion of the U.S. Senate Youth Program, he is executing orders to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center to become the Officer-in-Charge of the Marine Corps Liaison Office for the Wounded Warrior Regiment.

LtCol Epton's personal awards and decorations include: the Navy Commendation Medal (w/1 star), the Air Medal (w/numeral 6), and various service awards. He was a military mentor during the 2010 U.S. Senate Youth Program.

Maj Cynthia S. Kearley

Major Cynthia Kearley is originally from Boca Raton, Fla.. She currently resides with her husband and two children in Montgomery, Ala., where she serves as a civil law instructor for new Air Force attorneys at the Air Force Judge Advocate General's (JAG) School at Maxwell Air Force Base.

Major Kearley received her law degree from Syracuse University College of Law (2001), where she graduated *Cum Laude*, in the top 13% of her class. As part of a dual-degree program, she also received a Masters of Arts in International Relations from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. She received her Air Force Commission through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps as an appointee in the Air Force Graduate Law Program. Major Kearley earned a Bachelor of Science degree (Psychology) from the University of Florida (1997). As an undergraduate student, she received the Presidential Recognition Award from the President of the University of Florida for her service to the university, which included volunteering over 300 hours as a counselor at the Alachua County Crisis Center, serving as a "University Peer Counselor" (providing career counseling for other students), and serving in the University Senate and Florida Blue Key Leadership Honor Society.



Prior to becoming an instructor at the Air Force JAG School, Major Kearley has served in a variety of Air Force JAG assignments including, as an Area Defense Counsel, defending Air Force members in criminal proceedings in California, Nevada, and Arizona; Chief Commissioner and Law Clerk at the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals in Washington, DC; and as a Deputy Staff Judge Advocate at the 6th Air Mobility Wing, MacDill AFB, in Tampa, Fla.. Major Kearley is also a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where she worked as a liaison officer to the Central Criminal Court of Iraq.

In her last assignment as a Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, Major Kearley used her sense of community to spearhead "Operation Make a Difference." Projects undertaken by Operation Make a Difference included a bi-weekly writing clinic for college-bound Airmen, Law Day events at local schools, and participation in a shoreline stabilization project. These efforts resulted in over 700 hours of community service performed by members of the base legal office. In her personal capacity, Major Kearley served as the President of the Hillsborough County Bar Association's Leadership Institute (2010), a program created to develop future leaders in the Florida bar. In that role, she led their community service project, "Lawyers for Literacy" which increased awareness of the importance of early literacy and access to books to over 300 children. Major Kearley was recognized by the Mayor of Tampa and the 6th Air Mobility Wing Commander as MacDill Air Force Base Women's Appreciation "Military Woman of the Year" for 2010.

During her first Air Force assignment, Major Kearley volunteered as a member of Advisory Board for the Law and Government Academy at Quartz Hill High School, Calif.. This board determines the curriculum for the high school students to expand their knowledge of government and careers in public service. Major Kearley organized a team of Air Force officers to volunteer time to assist students with their "Senior Projects," and she volunteered to have high school juniors "job shadow" her for several days, including during her first litigated trial!

Major Kearley served as a military mentor for the U.S. Senate Youth Program in 2008 and found it to be a personal and professional highlight of her career. As a result of her participation in 2008, Major Kearley was able to bring awareness of the "Open World" program to the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals, which led to an Air Force military judge joining an international panel discussion.

MAJ Archie L. Bates, III, PhD.

Major Archie L. Bates, III, PhD, is from Birmingham, Ala.. He graduated from the United States Military Academy (West Point) with a Bachelor's Degree in Management. While attending West Point, he earned the Superintendent's Award for Outstanding Academic, Military and Physical Excellence; earned Dean's List honors four times; played varsity football; performed with Cadet Gospel Choir, and was a Special Olympics volunteer. At West Point, MAJ Bates became deeply involved in the lives of youth -- a foundation upon which he continues to build today. As a volunteer mentor for the Green Chimney Program for homeless and runaway youth, he escorted youth on field trips in the greater New York City area. Additionally, West Point selected MAJ Bates as a delegate to the Washington, DC Urban League, where he spent his junior year summer break helping the Urban League to devise a developmental curriculum for DC area youth. West Point also selected him to serve on its Public Relations Council. Here, MAJ Bates spent his spring breaks informing high schools students in his hometown about West Point.



MAJ Bates began his military career upon graduating West Point in 1996 and being commissioned as a Human Resources Management Officer. After serving in various staff positions at Fort Carson, Colo., he commanded a company for 21 months. Most endearing to him while a commander was that he mentored one of his Soldiers to become the Fort Carson Soldier of the Year. His company also earned the Commanding General's Physical Fitness Excellence Award, the Commanding General's AWOL Free Award (for having no truancy within his command) and the Commanding General's Re-enlistment Award (for achieving the highest level of Soldier continued service).

After command, MAJ Bates attended a professional developmental course for officers within the human resources management career field. There, he was the class salutatorian, and his classmates chose him for the class Leadership Award. The Army also chose MAJ Bates to return to West Point to be a professor and paid-in-full his tuition to earn a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Maryland. At Maryland, he volunteered as a research and teaching assistant, presented research and lectured internationally on diversity and leadership, co-authored a book chapter, and was awarded a Maryland Higher Education Grant for Research in Diversity.

Subsequently, Dr. Bates served as Assistant Professor of Leadership and Management at West Point for three years. He was also responsible for developing other faculty and for providing individualized academic and personal counseling to all Leadership majors (cadets). Additionally, he was the Assistant Operations Officer for Cadet Basic Training, in charge of initial training for 1,200 new cadets. Finally, Dr. Bates volunteered to be an academic liaison between the Dean and the Army football coach, a cadet mentor in the Commandant's Military Ethic, Respect, and Special Leadership Development programs, and the Officer-in-Charge of the Hudson Valley (NY) Special Olympics Games.

After teaching, MAJ Bates served at Fort Campbell, Ky.. As a Brigade Human Resources Officer with the storied 101st Airborne Division, he deployed for 14 months to Iraq. He was in charge of the deployment readiness and morale and welfare for over 4,500 Soldiers, including managing the performance appraisal program, the Rest and Recuperation Program, postal operations, and the Soldier award program.

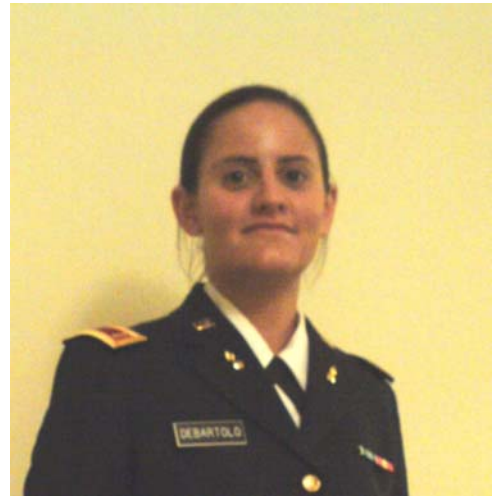
MAJ Bates' awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, and the Achievement Medal for significant contributions to his career field. He currently serves as Executive Officer to the Director, Army Human Resources Policy.

MAJ Bates has dedicated much of his professional and personal life towards youth development. In addition to the aforementioned activities, he has been a Youth Ministries Leader in his church, a "Big" for Big Brothers Big Sisters, and a tutor. As the only child of a single mom, he personally understands that "it takes a village to raise a child." He is a product of "village upbringing" and desires to recycle that gift, in part by being a Military Mentor.

2LT Julie DeBartolo

Second Lieutenant Julie DeBartolo resides in Denver, Colo., and grew up in Rocky Ford, Colo.. In high school, she played varsity softball and basketball, and was an active member in Future Business Leaders of America, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, El Pomar Youth in Community Service, and Student Government; the latter three, she held a leadership role. She often volunteered her time at the elementary schools to read and aid teachers with tutoring and during their summer school programs. Her sophomore year, she was nominated by her school to be the ambassador to the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar.

2LT DeBartolo graduated valedictorian of her class and received a four-year National Army Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship to the university of her choice. She studied one year at Colorado College then transferred to Colorado State University at Pueblo, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and a minor in Military Science and Leadership.



2LT DeBartolo graduated valedictorian of her class and received a four-year National Army Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship to the university of her choice. She studied one year at Colorado College then transferred to Colorado State University at Pueblo, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and a minor in Military Science and Leadership.

2LT DeBartolo is currently in the 3650th Maintenance Company in the Colorado Army National Guard, where she is a platoon leader of a predominately male unit and a Maintenance Control Officer. As a Platoon Leader, she works with her Platoon Sergeant to keep accountability of their Soldiers, communicate between commanding officers and their Soldiers, and ensure the health and well-being of every Soldier in the platoon. As the Maintenance Control Officer, she is in charge of running and controlling five maintenance shops, employing approximately 150 Soldiers. She leads weekly meetings with the shop chiefs to ensure they are completing all tasks on time, tracking all equipment and purchases, and remaining within budget. Recently, her unit was at the National Maintenance Training Center at Camp Dodge, Iowa for a two-week annual training. Working at the training center was her first experience as the Maintenance Control Officer. Because of her hard work and accomplishments, the training staff awarded her the Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM). The ARCOM is awarded to members of the Armed Forces serving in capacity with the Army who distinguish themselves by heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service.

2LT DeBartolo also works full-time as a Department of Defense technician at the Joint Forces Headquarters for the Colorado Army and Air National Guard in Centennial, Colorado in the Directorate of Logistics. Here, she works with Colorado Army National Guard units being deployed and returning from deployment. She tracks every piece of equipment, including but not limited to vehicles, weapons, and optics, as they leave the country with the units or stay behind at their home station, and she ensures they are properly maintained to their technical manual standard.

Since high school, 2LT DeBartolo has been an active volunteer with youth in her community. She has worked with youth ranging in age from 6 to 17 in academic, athletic, and leadership settings. She has served as a tutor to middle and high school students. 2LT DeBartolo served as a peer spiritual advisor to high school students in Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Most recently, she became a 'big sister' to an 11-year old girl through the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Denver. The youth program she has enjoyed volunteering for the most is the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar. 2LT DeBartolo has served as either an assistant facilitator or facilitator every summer since 2006. As a facilitator, she works with a group of eight to ten students as well as coordinates how her group works with other small groups. The group undergoes diversity training, participates in leadership development activities, and converses with professional panelists of different vocations from both the U.S. and other countries. These professions include but are not limited to education, politics, military, business, medicine/health, and foreign affairs. The groups discuss current events, problems society is facing, and brainstorm new ideas to be effective leaders in the communities and beyond.

2LT DeBartolo knew she wanted to grow up and follow in her dad's footsteps and serve her country for a career. She loves the career she has chosen and works hard to constantly learn and grow to be the best in her field.

Lt Col Julie J.R. Huygen

Lieutenant Colonel Julie J.R. Huygen was born in Wilmington, Del. and raised in Germantown, Tenn., a suburb of Memphis. Lt Col Huygen graduated from The Hutchison School, where she participated in YMCA Youth in Government, Model United Nations, and Close Up. In college, she concentrated in Government and was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard University. Despite being severely lacking in any athletic skill, she has a ring for managing the 1989 NCAA men's ice hockey championship team. As a member of the Crimson Key Society, she gave campus tours and assisted with Freshman Week for the incoming class of 1,600. For the past 20 years, she has volunteered for the Admissions Office and interviewed high school seniors applying to Harvard. A week after her college graduation, she started working in sports management for USA Hockey and the men's ice hockey team that competed at the 1992 Olympic Games. She went on to jobs in both minor league and then Major League Baseball. While working in baseball, she started the evening program at the University of Maryland School of Law. She left school for a year to work in the National Basketball Association. She returned to the DC area to finish law school, during which time she interned at the Department of Justice and National Security Council and clerked at what is now the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. She is a member of the Maryland bar.



Like the majority of Air Force judge advocates (JAG), or officers who are lawyers, she was commissioned as a direct appointee, meaning she had no prior obligation to serve and the Air Force did not pay for school. In the course of her military career, she has had the opportunity to gain experience in almost all areas of Air Force practice – international and operations law, civil and administrative law, military justice, and claims. Her first assignment was at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash. Beginning at Fairchild and almost every year since joining the Air Force, she has organized annual Law Day events, including educational sessions at local elementary schools.

She has since been assigned to Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, and Royal Air Force Mildenhall, United Kingdom. While stationed in England, she deployed to Mozambique, Uganda, South Africa, and Georgia (the former Soviet Socialist Republic) in support of humanitarian relief operations. As an Air Force intern, she spent two years at the Pentagon, rotating through offices of the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Headquarters Air Force. She went on to Barksdale Air Force Base, La., and deployed to serve as the sole lawyer for a 5,000-person air expeditionary wing that provided tactical airlift in Iraq and supported a facility that housed 10,000 detainees. After returning home, she served as the legal advisor for Air Force flying and cyber operations conducted for United States Strategic Command. On weekends, she volunteered at the local animal shelter. She also taught at STARBASE, a Department of Defense program to interest elementary-school students in science and math.

Lt Col Huygen is assigned to the Office of The Judge Advocate General (TJAG), Headquarters Air Force, the Pentagon. TJAG is the senior uniformed lawyer for the Secretary and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. After two years working directly for TJAG, she is now a legal advisor and investigating officer in The Inspector General's Senior Official Inquiries Directorate, which looks into allegations of wrongdoing by Air Force general officers and senior civilian employees.

LtCol David K. Sutton

Lt Col David Sutton is from Lower Burrell, Pa.. A distinguished graduate (9th of 1082 cadets) from the U.S. Air Force Academy class of 1992, he also holds a Masters Degree in International Relations from the University of Helsinki, Finland. Growing up, he was active in baseball, track, swimming, music (piano), and drama. After earning his pilot's license in high school (flying his first solo before he had his driver's license), his dream was to become a fighter pilot in the Air Force. He has since deployed to combat both in the air over Bosnia-Herzegovina and Afghanistan flying the A-10 "Thunderbolt II" (or "Warthog," as it is called by its pilots), and on the ground in Bosnia as a liaison to the U.S. Army.



In addition to duty as a fighter pilot and flying instructor, Lt Col Sutton's varied career has included study as a graduate student abroad, a position at the U.S. embassy in New Delhi, India, and work on national security policy and strategy in the Pentagon. In India, he was responsible for coordinating and managing cooperation activities between the U.S. and Indian Air Forces (such as training, exercises, and U.S. defense sales to India) as well as developing cooperative research and development projects between the Department of Defense and the Indian Ministry of Defense. In the Pentagon, Lt Col Sutton worked to develop U.S. security strategy and policy for the South Asia region. He prepared senior leaders for policy meetings at the National Security Council and White House, and represented the Joint Staff and military services in interactions with other U.S. Government agencies as well as with the militaries of India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania. He currently oversees U.S. Air Force cooperative programs in South Asia in support of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs.

Lt Col Sutton has been an active leader in Scouting both in Virginia and in the Boy Scouts of America chapter in New Delhi, serving as a den leader and assistant "Cub Master." He has participated as an athlete escort for U.S. Special Olympians, and been active as a youth leader (middle school through college age) at his churches in various locations.

In the course of his career, Lt Col Sutton has been able to participate in truly exciting activities, from flying aircraft (and jumping from them!) to the deliberations that help determine the direction our nation takes in the international realm.

Maj Donna J. Fox

Major Donna Fox was born and raised in Texas. She graduated from Sam Rayburn High School where she was the president of the Students Against Drunk Driving, and played varsity basketball. She then joined the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M University. After two years at Texas A&M University, she enlisted in the Air Force.

In 1991, she was stationed in Biloxi, Miss., at Keesler Air Force Base as a laboratory technician. After graduating as an honor graduate, she began working in the chemistry laboratory. She served as the technical training instructor for new lab techs, guiding young airmen through a nine-month training.



In 2000, Staff Sergeant Fox received her commission into the officer corps. She was later stationed in Florida, where she volunteered as the education coordinator. In this capacity, she was able to train and mentor more than 30 students. As a Laboratory Scientist, she was called on to judge more than 10 science fairs ranging from elementary school ages through college level. She felt that encouraging future scientists was a very rewarding experience.

During her time at Florida, she served as the den mother of the cub scouts for three consecutive years, leading more than 50 children. Channeling lots of energy she was able to guide more than half her pack to reach the ultimate badge, the arrow of light. This badge points them onto their journey into the boy scouts.

After Florida, the Air Force sent her home to Texas where she spent the next six years. While in San Antonio, Texas, Maj Fox became the squadron section commander for the United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. As the commander, she led more than 300 students per year through their training. The students she led were straight out of Basic Military Training and learning their chosen career field.

Maj Fox was deployed in 2001 in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and 2006 in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. While in Iraq, her team of 91 laboratory technicians transfused 200 units of blood per day to American Soldiers, Airmen, and Marines. She was recognized as 332nd Wing Company Grade Officer of the Month for her outstanding performance during her deployment.

Maj Fox has a Bachelor's of Science and a Master's Degree in Forensic Science. She hopes to pursue a degree in forensic science with the FBI upon her retirement from the Air Force.

Capt Ruth N. Segres

Chaplain, Major Segres is the Acting Deputy Wing Chaplain at Vance Air Force Base, Enid, Okla.. She oversees chapel worship, religious education, and liturgies and rites in accordance with the teachings of her denomination. As the Acting Deputy Wing chaplain, she supervises two chaplains, three contractors, one Individual Mobilization Augmentee; oversees Protestant Programs, and provides pastoral care, advice, support, and counseling to the Medical Group.



Chaplain Segres attended Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh, N.C., where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology. As a student she was selected for the leadership summer exchange program as one of four USA Young and Gifted Leaders to attend Trinity College, Quezon City, Manila, Philippines. While at Saint Augustine's she was employed by the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Summer Youth Program, where she was a team leader and advisor. During her last two undergraduate years, she worked for the Boys and Girls Club as a mentor in the mentorship program. While in college she also actively served as a Sunday School Teacher and advisor to the youth and teens in her local church.

Upon graduation Chaplain Segres was employed as an AIDS Prevention Counselor by the Occupation Industrialization Center in Rocky Mount, N.C.. There she partnered with local community groups and churches to give lectures to teenagers on AIDS prevention. During that time she continued to lead and mentor youth as a Youth and Young Adult Pastor and Rocky Mount Boys and Girls Club volunteer. She subsequently enrolled in the Samuel DeWitt School of Theology at Virginia Union University in Richmond, VA, earning a Master of Divinity degree. While in seminary she served her local church as Assistant to the Pastor, and Youth Minister, and was employed by Virginia Union University Summer Youth Program as advisor and counselor. Chaplain Segres is presently writing her dissertation for her Doctor of Ministry degree from Denver Seminary, Denver, Colo..

Chaplain Segres is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and active in their mentoring programs: Delta Academy, Delta Gems, and Deltas Empowering Males to Build Opportunities of Developing Independence (E.M.B.O.D.I.). Those program age ranges are 11-18. She is the founder of Teens After Christ Together for Fellowship Unity and Love Ministries (TACTFUL) Inc.; Sisters With a Purpose Ministries (SWAP) Inc.; and Co-founder of Circle of Sisters Ministries, Inc.

In 1999 she entered the Air Force Chaplain Corps Candidate Program and began active duty service in June 2002. Throughout her nine years, she has served in various chaplain capacities, such as Gospel Service Pastor, Flightline Chaplain, Young Adult and Singles Ministry Chaplain, and Air Force Academy Chaplain to Cadets (ages 18-22). She was also selected as a resident of the Clinical Pastoral Education Program at Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base. While at Lackland she worked in the local church Youth Ministry. At her previous assignment, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, she was chaplain to the United States Air Force Band, the United States Air Force Honor Guard, and advisor for Protestant Youth of the Chapel, Young Adults, and Religious Education.

Chaplain Segres is a stellar office who has been selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel. Her accomplishments include: 4th FW Company Grade Officer of the Quarter (CGOQ), Seymour Johnson AFB; 51st FW Staff Agencies CGOQ and CGO of the Year, Osan AB; 11th Wing CGOQ (2x), Bolling AFB; and 2009 Air Force Association Nation's Capital Chapter Outstanding CGO of the Year; 2010 Air Force District of Washing Chaplain CGO of the Year; and United States Senate Youth Program Military Mentor 2011.

Capt Kevin K. Tran

Captain Kevin K. Tran is from Huntington Beach, Calif.. He graduated with honors from Marina High School in 1990. He was on the varsity wrestling team where he helped his team win the Sunset League title. In his junior year, he was nominated by his teammates as the "Outstanding Athlete of the Year." In his senior year, he joined the Air Force and was enrolled in the Delayed Enlistment Program. In November 1990, he entered basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and began his military career.



Capt Tran has been stationed throughout the world. His assignments included bases in Korea, Germany, Hawaii, Utah, Oklahoma, Nevada and Washington, DC. Furthermore, he has been deployed to Italy, Spain, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Afghanistan, and twice to Saudi Arabia.

Early in his Air Force career, Capt Tran took college courses in his spare time, culminating in being accepted to the AFROTC program at the University of Utah. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in December 2003 and graduated with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Criminal Justice, graduating Cum Laude. After returning back to active duty as a commissioned officer, he completed his Masters of Human Relations degree in 2006 at the University of Oklahoma with a 3.9 GPA.

Capt Tran has won numerous individual and team awards. He won the Airman of the Year Award in 1995 and 1996. As a commissioned officer, he won the Personnel Manager of the Year Award in 2005 and 2007. Capt Tran was also instrumental in his office winning the George Washington Award for Protocol Excellence in 2009, being named the best protocol office in the entire Air Force. He has also won numerous individual and team quarterly awards throughout his military career.

His major awards and medals include:

- Joint Service Commendation Medal
- Air Force Commendation Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters (OLC)
- Air Force Achievement Medal with 2 OLC
- Joint Meritorious Unit Award with 1 OLC
- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with 1 OLC
- Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with 1 OLC

Capt Tran has donated hundreds of hours volunteering with both base and local charities. Some of his volunteer work includes Helping Hands Hawaii-Crisis Hotline, Habitats for Humanities, St Jude Children's Hospital, Company Grade Officer Council, and unit booster clubs. While deployed to Afghanistan, his unit adopted an elementary school for girls. He donated school supplies and toys, as well as taking the time to delivering the gifts to the school. He organized with U.S. nonprofit groups with donating schools supplies to be distributed amongst the local schools in Afghanistan as well. But his most rewarding volunteer work was being a Big Brother to two adopted boys while stationed in Hawaii. He assisted with their homework, taking them to sporting events/practices, and being an adult male figure in their lives. He also organized several hiking and camping trips, kayaking and surfing lessons, and horseback riding classes. Growing up in a large family, being a Big Brother was a natural fit for him.

Born in Vietnam and growing up in the United States, Capt Tran truly understands and appreciates the freedom we have and responsibility of mentoring today's youths. He beams with pride whenever anyone asks him about his military service. He has demonstrated exceptional leadership everywhere he goes. He has integrity and outstanding military bearing.

Capt Eric D. Powell

Captain Eric Powell is from Detroit, Mich.. He is the first in his Jamaican family to be born in the United States. Wanting to study architectural design, he enrolled in Cass Technical High School. While there, Capt Powell was very active within his church's youth group. For three straight summers, he worked as a camp counselor at Circle Y Ranch in Bangor, Mich.. He was responsible for the activities, well-being, and safety of 12 to 15 adolescent males from disadvantaged inner-city neighborhoods in Detroit, Mich., and Chicago, Ill..



After high school, Capt Powell enrolled at Michigan State University (MSU) with a full academic scholarship from the Air Force's Reserve Officer Training Corps Program. He continued his community service by working with MSU's King-Chavez-Parks Summer Program. As a summer student counselor and mentor, he guided disadvantaged urban teens towards the path of higher education and career development. He also served as the President of Snyder-Phillips Hall's Black Caucus. In this capacity, he organized positive coed activities that addressed the academic, social, and financial issues of the Hall's minority student body. In addition, he worked as an English tutor for international students and as a teaching assistant for organic and inorganic chemistry within MSU's Department of Chemistry.

After earning his BS degree in Physiology and an officer's commission, he began his military career within the Medical Service Corps at Battle Creek Air National Guard Base in Kalamazoo, Mich.. As a Health Services Administrator, he worked with physicians, nurses, and allied healthcare professionals in order to maintain the combat readiness of the 110th Fighter Wing's military personnel. One of his many additional duties included mentoring junior enlisted members interested in becoming military officers.

With his military commitment fulfilled, he decided to try his hand at civilian life. As a sales representative, he worked at two major pharmaceutical companies, first at Bristol-Myers Squibb and later at AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals. During this time, Capt Powell built relationships with physicians and hospital groups in order to deliver cutting edge pharmaceutical drugs to diverse patient populations. He educated his clients on several blockbuster products that addressed cardiovascular, mental health, and gastroenterological diseases. One of his proudest moments was partnering with Southwest Detroit's Community Health and Social Services Clinic in order to provide free prescriptions to its poor and largely immigrant patients.

Missing the unique challenges and comraderie that can only be found in a military career, Capt Powell rejoined the Air Force and is now serving as an Aerospace and Operational Physiologist. He has trained thousands of aircrew members on the physiological challenges of flight, night vision, and spatial disorientation. This training ranged from leading a crew of six to eight enlisted members in hypobaric chamber operations that simulate high altitude conditions to flying the Texan T-6 with Instructor Pilots over the skies of Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

Currently, Capt Powell is a Research Physiologist at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB), Ohio. He works with other physiologists, engineers, and healthcare professionals to deliver solutions to mechanical and physiological problems inherent to manned flight. On an average day, he is involved in projects relating to common human performance issues such as sleep deprivation, altitude sickness, and fatigue countermeasures. His other duties involve serving as a medical officer for the Air Force's Safety Center during air and ground mishaps of significant damage to property or loss of life. Over the past year, he was the President of WPAFB's Company Grade Officer's Council serving more than 1,500 junior officers. Last June, he was the leader of a squadron of 14 junior officers at Air Force Materiel Command's highly selective, Tech Warrior Program.

Capt Powell acknowledges that his successes can be directly attributed to hard work and to the one-on-one mentoring he has received from military officers, professors, and business leaders throughout his career. He values the importance of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM) and what they mean to our 21st Century future. He hopes to share with USSYP mentees on how a career in public service and STEMM can strengthen our society while addressing our national security interests.

LCDR Ryan J. Sears

A 1999 graduate of Emory University, Lieutenant Commander Ryan Sears received his Bachelor of Arts with a double major in English and Political Science. He enrolled at Washington University School of Law where he received the Judge John W. Calhoun Trial Practice Award and captained Washington University's American Trial Lawyers Association mock trial team. Before graduating with a J.D. in 2002, LCDR Sears received his commission into the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General Corps.



While attending Officer's Indoctrination School (OIS) in Newport, R.I., LCDR Sears served as battalion commander of his OIS class. Following his service at OIS, he attended Naval Justice School where he won the New York City Bar Association Trial Advocacy Award. From there, he was stationed as a prosecutor at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida. During this tour, he deployed with a multi-national naval force as the legal advisor to UNITAS 2003 off the coast of Argentina. LCDR Sears subsequently served as the Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) to Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia, and Naval Submarine Support Center Kings Bay. LCDR Sears's following tour was as the senior trial counsel and officer in charge of the prosecution office at Naval Station Mayport, Fla.. He then served as SJA to the SEAL training school at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, Calif., and afterwards at Naval Special Warfare Group (SEAL) Group 2 at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va.. He returned to Florida as the SJA to Destroyer Squadron FOURTEEN. In his next assignment, LCDR Sears was selected to serve as Special Assistant U.S. Attorney to the Middle District of Florida where he prosecuted cases on behalf of the military in federal district court.

LCDR Sears left his position in the U.S. Attorney's Office to join the Criminal Law Division of the Office of the Judge Advocate General where he assisted in the review and drafting of the criminal codes and instructions that govern the Navy and Marine Corps. LCDR Sears is currently assigned to Naval Legal Service Office North Central in Washington, DC, where his duties include service as the senior defense counsel for the Washington Navy Yard representing service members in administrative proceedings and courts martial as well as serving as an advocate for Wounded Warriors going through the Disability Evaluation System.

During his naval service, LCDR Sears has been awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three times) and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two times), among other awards. He has volunteered as a legal advisor to the Thurgood Marshall Academy Mock Trial Team in Washington, DC, a judge for the Clay County, Fla., Juvenile Court, an advisor to the Jacksonville, Fla., chapter of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, and as a mentor with the St. Louis, Mo., Boys Club.

A native of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, LCDR Sears is not only a former 2006 Military Mentor, but he is also an USSYP alumnus as a 1995 Ohio delegate. He still refers to his week attending the USSYP one of the most incredible experiences of his life and tremendously enjoyed the honor of returning as a Military Mentor.

ENS Miguel A. Green

Ensign Miguel A. Green is a native of Tallahassee, Fla., and graduated from Adult Community Education in February 1998. He began his Naval career as an enlisted Sailor on May 14, 1998.

As an enlisted Sailor, ENS Green served as Weather Observer, Assistant Weather Forecaster, Command Duty Officer, Antisubmarine Team Leader, Staff Meteorologist, Battle Watch Captain, Assistant Meteorology and Oceanography Officer, Assistant Training Officer, Command Fitness Leader, Command Drug and Alcohol Program Advisor, and Leading Petty Officer. Additionally, he was Commander, Amphibious Squadron ELEVEN's only enlisted Staff Tactical Watch Officer. With only 10 years of enlisted service in the military, he achieved the rank of Chief Petty Officer (E-7) on September 16, 2008, which is a tremendous career milestone for an enlisted Sailor. On April 2, 2010, he was commissioned as an Ensign through the Limited Duty Officer Program. Currently, he is the officer in charge of the Naval Fleet Weather Center Detachment in the Pentagon.



ENS Green began working with youth as a teenager. During his high school summer vacations, he worked as a youth counselor and basketball coach for Tallahassee Parks and Recreation. This is where he first received experience and formal training working with youth. While living in Sicily from 2002 to 2004, he was an avid volunteer within the community. He participated in everything from painting children's schools in the community to sponsoring youth activities. Whenever he wasn't taking college classes on base in Sicily, his spare time was spent as a volunteer mentor and referee for afterschool programs and youth sports, respectively. As a mentor and referee, ENS Green was able to build children's self-esteem through positive reinforcement. While stationed on the USS Essex (LHD-2) from 2004 through 2007, he was a member of the First Class Petty Officer Association, where he volunteered for nine community relations (COMREL) projects at various elementary schools and orphanages throughout the Philippines, Thailand, and South Korea. These COMREL projects helped to build stronger relationships between the host nation and the United States while providing volunteers with the opportunity to help children and represent the United States in a positive way.

Throughout his Naval career, ENS Green has successfully supervised more than 20 young adults under the age of 21. He contributed greatly to the growth and development of his personnel through continuous personal and professional mentoring. In addition, he implemented Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention training for 57 Sailors, which enhanced command readiness and resulted in "zero" alcohol or drug related incidents while he held the position of command Drug and Alcohol Program Advisor.

In August 2007, ENS Green earned an Associate of Arts degree in General Curriculum from the University of Maryland University College, and in 2010 he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Natural Sciences/Mathematics from Thomas Edison State College. His personal awards include the Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal (five awards), Good Conduct Medal (four awards), and various Unit Citations and Awards.

Ensign Green was afforded the distinguished opportunity of serving as a military mentor in 2011, and he found it to be one of the greatest experiences of his life.

LT Janelle Y. Kuroda

Lieutenant Janelle Kuroda, Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps, U.S. Navy, grew up in Hilo, Hawaii. The highlight of her high school experience was being competitively selected as one of two students to represent Hawaii as a delegate to the 1997 U.S. Senate Youth Program. The program changed the way she looked at the world – the exposure to public leaders and the political process instilled in her the belief that educated and inspired youth can affect public policy through long-term commitments to public service. LT Kuroda graduated from the University of Hawaii at Hilo, where she served as Vice President of the student body and graduated *summa cum laude* with her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 2001.

Upon graduation, she entered Boston College Law School, where she served as President of the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association and was recognized by the law school for her commitment to community service. Following a long family tradition of military service, LT Kuroda was commissioned into the U.S. Navy JAG Corps Student Program during law school in 2004.

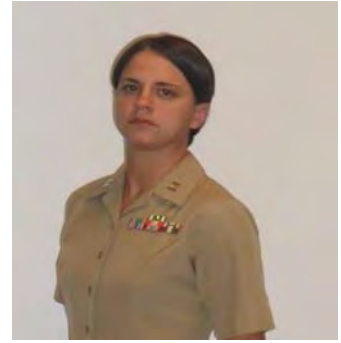


During her military career, LT Kuroda served as a legal assistance attorney, criminal defense attorney, staff judge advocate and policy advisor. She has extensive and varied military deployment experience. In 2006, LT Kuroda volunteered to serve with Multi-National Forces-Iraq, Task Force 134 Detainee Operations in Baghdad, Iraq. In 2009, she was assigned to Kandahar and Helmand Province, Afghanistan to provide legal advice to deployed commanders. In 2009, LT Kuroda was selected as the legal advisor to the Combined Task Force 151 multi-national counter-piracy mission where she served at sea and provided legal guidance on rules of engagement on the suppression and disruption of piracy to U.S. ships and ships from partner country navies.

LT Kuroda knows that the future of the military lies with the youth of America and guides and mentors young people around the country. She was the inaugural instructor in support of the U.S. Navy JAG Corps' initiative to be the first military service to partner with the Street Law Diversity Pipeline Program, a national civilian program designed to increase diversity in the legal profession. She actively engaged and encouraged 26 high school students from underrepresented communities in Washington, DC, to pursue careers in law, especially in the Navy. For two years in a row, she has built a partnership with the Eagle Academy Public Charter School, creating opportunities for active duty and civilian personnel at the Washington Navy Yard to mentor students in a historically at-risk area. She has spoken at several youth events, including the U.S. Senate Youth Program, where she serves on the board of directors of the U.S. Senate Youth Alumni Association and is the chairperson of their military outreach committee. LT Kuroda also served as a military mentor and assistant senior military mentor at the U.S. Senate Youth Program in 2006 and 2007. She is the 2011 recipient of the Federal Asian Pacific American Council's Military Meritorious Service Award for the U.S. Navy.

Capt Jessica J. Karlin

Captain Jessica Karlin is a native of Johnsbury, Ill.. She graduated from Johnsbury High School in May of 1999 and attended DePaul University on an athletic scholarship. She graduated in 2003 with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Secondary Education. She was commissioned a Second Lieutenant via the Officer Candidate Class in August 2004. After completing The Basic School and the Basic Engineer Officer's Course, she reported to 8th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 2d Marine Logistics Group in August 2005 for duty.



Upon arrival to 8th ESB, she augmented Combat Logistics Regiment 25 to train a platoon from the Marine Corps Reserve. She served as a platoon commander for their pre-deployment training 29 Palms, Calif.. In September 2005, 2ndLt Karlin deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with 8th ESB as the Bosnian Herzegovina (BiH) Munitions Clearing Platoon Liaison Officer. During this time she planned, coordinated, and conducted munitions clearing across Al Anbar Province with the BiH platoon. The BiH Platoon re-deployed in November 2005, and 2ndLt Karlin was subsequently assigned to Support Company to serve as the Utilities Platoon Commander until March. Here her unit provided utilities support to the second largest base in Al Anbar. Upon her return from Iraq in March 2006, she was assigned to Charlie Company as a Platoon Commander and Executive Officer.

In September 2006, 1stLt Karlin was assigned as an Individual Augment to II Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) (Fwd), G-4 Infrastructure, where she deployed again to Operation Iraqi Freedom. She served as the Facilities and Basing Officer, where she assisted with Multi-National Forces West-Iraq planning and supporting facilities maintenance and upgrades to 13 bases in Al Anbar.

In February 2007, she served as the Basing and Facilities Officer for II MEF. During this time 1stLt Karlin planned and supervised the expansion of several bases to support the troop surge of 2007. Her unit improved the quality of life both on major installations and in the heart of the cities where small teams lived and trained with the Iraqi soldiers. In the summer of 2007, she shifted focus from supporting the surge, to downsizing the military footprint in Iraqi to support the withdrawal of troops in 2008 as the Base Realignment and Closure Officer. She effectively planned the demilitarization of facilities and the transfer of property back to the Iraqi government at four locations. Working with the State Department, USAID, and all DOD tenants, her unit successfully closed the military bases, transferred capabilities, and established facilities for the agricultural college, a judicial compound, the city of Ramadi's municipal center, and military training areas.

In March of 2008, 1stLt Karlin reported to 4th Recruit Training Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment, Eastern Recruiting Region, Parris Island, S.C.. During this tour she was promoted to Captain. Capt Karlin served as a Series Commander, Headquarters' Company Commander, Operations Officer, and Company Commander of Company P. In December 2010, Capt Karlin transferred to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., where she attended the Army's Engineer Captain's Career Course. Upon graduation in June 2011, Capt Karlin was assigned to 6th Engineer Support Battalion and her present duty as the Engineer Company "A" Inspector-Instructor in Springfield, Ore..

Capt Karlin is a graduate of the United States Army Engineer Captain's Career Course. Her decorations include the Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star and the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Capt Michael P. Fowler

Captain Fowler was born in Middleburg Heights, Ohio. After completing high school in 2002, he attended Kent State University and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Justice Studies (Cum Laude). Upon graduation from college in May 2006, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant (2dLt) in the United States Marine Corps. 2dLt Fowler reported to The Basic School in November 2006 and was subsequently assigned to Alpha Company. Upon graduation in June 2007, 2dLt Fowler reported to the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course in Fort Sill, Okla.. Upon graduation in November 2007, 2dLt Fowler checked into Golf Battery, 2d Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C..



2dLt Fowler initially served as the Artillery Liaison Officer and Forward Observer in support of battery operations and 2d Battalion, 2d Marines. During this time, he also completed Mojave Viper in 29 Palms, Calif., as a Forward Observer in support of 2d Battalion, 2d Marines. In June 2008, 1stLt Fowler was reassigned as the 2d Platoon Commander, Fire Direction Officer, and Position Commander in preparation for the unit's deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). In September 2008, 1stLt Fowler deployed with Golf Battery.

In May 2009, 1stLt. Fowler returned from OIF. He was assigned as the Executive Officer for Golf Battery the following month. 1stLt Fowler executed numerous field operations and one Enhanced Mojave Viper during this time. In January 2010, 1stLt Fowler was selected to be the Battalion's Assistant Logistics Officer to assist with the reestablishment of 2d Battalion, 10th Marines' logistical operations after their year-long civil affairs deployment. In May 2010, 1stLt Fowler executed permanent change of station orders to Headquarters and Service Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps, Henderson Hall in Virginia.

Upon arriving to the unit, 1stLt Fowler served as the Headquarters Company Executive Officer. In October 2010 he was promoted to Captain. From June 2011 to August 2011, Capt Fowler volunteered to serve as a Platoon Commander for the PLC-Senior Program at Officer Candidates School. Upon his return, he was reassigned to his current duty as the Assistant Operations Officer for Headquarters and Service Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps, Henderson Hall.

Capt Fowler has worked as a mentor with youth groups since high school. During his high school years, he worked with Volunteer Opportunities for Teens (VOFT), providing mentorship and extracurricular activities for elementary school students in the local area. During his freshman year of college, Capt Fowler volunteered at an after-school recreation program, assisting children with homework and overseeing youth recreational activities.

Prior to graduation from college, Capt Fowler worked with PowerCorps for six months, an AmeriCorps community service program which provides social and recreational activities as well as volunteer opportunities for individuals of all ages with mental and developmental disabilities. In his current assignment, Capt Fowler is the acting Command Information Coordinator and disseminates information on numerous volunteer and donation opportunities to service members throughout the National Capital Region.

Capt Fowler's personal decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with one gold star, Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, National Defense Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with two bronze stars, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon. He is currently working on his Master of Arts Degree in Diplomacy with a concentration in international terrorism at Norwich University and is due to graduate in June 2012.

1stLt Alex G. Jabbal

First Lieutenant Alex Jabbal graduated from the University of South Carolina in August 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations.

Following his commencement, in January 2009, he moved to the Washington, DC, area and was awarded an internship with the United States House of Representatives Appropriations Committee. He worked with the Financial Services sub-committee through an entire appropriations cycle aiding in the preparation of the annual appropriations bill, the conduct of committee and sub-committee hearings, and with the day to day tasks of the subcommittee and committee staffs.



He was selected for and attended Officer Candidates School in Quantico, Va., in October 2009. Upon graduation, he received a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in December 2009 and later received his designation as a Logistics Officer.

In July 2010, he attended the Logistics Officers Course at Camp Johnson, N.C., and graduated first in his class in October 2010. Three months later, 2ndLt Jabbal deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom 11.1 from January 2011 through August 2011. As platoon commander, he was responsible for the tactical employment and well being of 52 Marines. He served as a convoy commander for 24 combat logistics patrols through highly contested terrain composed of 30-140 vehicles.

While conducting his first mission, 2ndLt Jabbal's vehicle was struck by two improvised explosive devices rendering it immobile. He completed the mission and went on to further exploits in the area of operations. He successfully conducted medical evacuations for 14 wounded Marines, some of which were conducted under enemy fire. His convoys came in direct contact with enemy fighters on no less than 40 occasions, and he successfully integrated fixed and rotary wing air support on eight missions. Through the course of operations, 2ndLt Jabbal coordinated with members of every branch of the United States Military, and often was required to escort those units to forward operating bases throughout the area of operations. During a seven month deployment to Helmand Province, Afghanistan, he conducted multiple missions escorting local national drivers and vehicles carrying humanitarian supplies, construction materials, and fuel to hard to reach destinations across improvised explosive device laden terrain. Upon return from Afghanistan, 2ndLt Jabbal was assigned as Executive Officer for Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 8, where he continues to serve today.

His experiences working with youth-related programs include work with the Boy Scouts of America, work with the Columbia Rowing Club in Columbia South Carolina, and work with the Custer Road United Methodist Church youth program in Plano, Texas. 2ndLt Jabbal participated with the Boy Scouts of America as a youth leader. Upon completion of his Eagle Scout award, he then went on to serve as an adult unit leader providing a very relatable example for the young boys in his troop. Since leaving the area, 2ndLt Jabbal returns when he can to speak with the boys about his experiences and the value of the moral and ethical behaviors the Boy Scouts promotes. While a member and captain of the University of South Carolina rowing team, 2ndLt Jabbal aided the Columbia Rowing Club with their youth program designed to create rowing awareness in the community and provide access for youth in the area to collegiate opportunities as rowers. He coordinated logistics for the youth rowing team to travel in conjunction with the university team for races when possible. He trained and mentored several youth rowers who went on to collegiate scholarships in rowing, and many others who did not.

2ndLt Jabbal was recently promoted to first lieutenant on December 11, 2011. 1stLt Jabbal is married to his wife of one and a half years, Tracy. They reside on the North Carolina coast just south of Camp Lejeune on Topsail Island. His awards and recognitions include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and Combat Action Ribbon.

LT Douglas Salik

Lieutenant Doug Salik has served in the U.S. Coast Guard since October of 2001 when he received his Reserve Officer commission in New London, Conn.. Although his specialty in the Coast Guard is Marine Safety, LT Salik has performed, in one way or another, many of the missions of the U.S. Coast Guard - from Search and Rescue to Ice Operations or from Law Enforcement to Marine Environmental Protection.



LT Salik has been stationed or served in many areas throughout the United States, including: Anchorage, Alaska, Seattle, Wash., Staten Island, N.Y., Chicago, Ill., Washington, DC, Austin, Texas, and Norfolk, Va., as well as being deployed with the U.S. Army in Kuwait and Afghanistan.

While selected to serve as assistant supervisor to the Redeployment Assistance and Inspection Detachment (RAID), LT Salik was imbedded with the Army. He deployed to Kuwait to assist soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom return home. He then forward deployed to Afghanistan to do the same for service members serving in Operation Enduring Freedom. LT Salik is one of the first four Coast Guardsmen to have earned the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

Upon completion of his tour in New York and overseas LT Salik was assigned as the Chief of Vessel Inspections and later the Chief of Waterways Management at the Marine Safety Unit in Chicago. Here he completed several additional significant vessel inspection and other qualifications which were instrumental in his leading the mariners' safety charge at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Aquatic Nuisance Species Dispersal Barrier (AKA: the electric fish barrier) on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal where significant electricity is pumped into the water to prevent invasive fish species in the Mississippi River Basin from reaching the Great Lakes. Unfortunately, that electrified waterway that prevents fish from swimming upstream is also used by commercial vessels and recreational boats.

Prior to joining the U.S. Coast Guard, LT Salik worked for the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate and the Alaska State House and Senate in addition to working for the U.S. Air Force and some nonprofits in Alaska. In 1998, he earned his Bachelor's of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Alaska Anchorage, and he is presently working on his Master's in Public Administration at American University.

LT Salik has volunteered in many youth venues. Presently, he volunteers with Reading Partners in Washington, DC where he is paired with an under-performing 5th grade student in Anacostia. They read together one hour a week throughout the school year. Additionally, LT Salik donates platelets at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in order to assist injured soldiers, sailors and Marines. He volunteered with the Earth Conservation Corps to assist in park and waterway clean-ups and with the DC Central Kitchen, preparing meals for the chronically homeless in Washington, DC. For ten years, he volunteered with Alaska Special Olympics as a coach, a statewide program manager and as a "unified" athlete, mentoring mentally and physically handicap athletes of all ages and abilities. In his off time, LT Salik likes to golf, ski, umpire Little League Baseball, travel and attend cultural educational events.

LT Salik has been afforded numerous challenging work assignments leading diverse crews, both domestically and in war zones. In all of these assignments he has not only led the men and women serving with him, but he actively mentored them so that they will be the next generation of leaders.

LT Salik has been selected for promotion to Lieutenant Commander.