

Leadership Fellows 2022

MAJ Joshua Bowen*

1LT Nikiay Comer

CPT Michael Crosen

CPT Josepf Danczuk

CPT Shawnta DiFalco

1LT Clinton Grable

MAJ Joseph Huitt*

CPT Clayton Jaksha

CPT Terry Lee

Dr. Paul Lester*

CPT Justin Leugers

CPT Marc Melfi

2LT Maxwell Myers

MAJ Patrick Naughton*

CPT Robert Perez

CPT Lucy Perkins

CPT Micah Petersen

CPT John Plaziak

1LT Ashley Sanchez

CPT Teddy Sims

CPT Kourtney Slaughter

1LT Gloria Son

2LT Leah Spangler

2LT Caleb Visser

CPT Flem Walker

LTC Bre Washburn*

2LT Michael Watkins

2LT Max Weisman

CPT Austin Wesley

1LT Kevin Wolgast

**Senior Fellow*



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MAJ JOSH BOWEN

2022 Senior Leadership Fellow

Major Bowen is passionate about making people and organizations better through leader development. He is an engineer officer currently serving as a student at the Command & General Staff Officer Course at Fort Leavenworth, KS. He most recently served as a Tactical Officer and instructor of leadership at USMA. Josh is the founder of 3x5 Leadership, a blog and supporting portfolio of free resources for leader development. He has conducted graduate studies in organizational psychology and engineering management. Josh is married to Lindsey, and they have a 2-year-old daughter and newborn son.



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MAJ JOSEPH HUITT

2022 Senior Leadership Fellow

Major Huitt is a Cyber Warfare Operations Officer, currently serving at U.S. Army Cyber Command. He is a graduate of the College of Naval Command and Staff, U.S. Naval War College and a Distinguished Military Graduate of Augusta University. Over his twenty-three plus years in service, including his enlistment prior to commissioning, Major Huitt has served in leadership positions from the tactical to strategic levels. He has gained invaluable experience serving with Special Operations Command in West Africa, USAFRICOM in England, NATO-ISAF in Afghanistan, 66th Military Intelligence Brigade in Germany, USARCENT in Saudi Arabia, 2nd Infantry Division in South Korea and numerous stateside units. Major Huitt holds masters' degrees in Defense and Strategic Studies, and Intelligence Studies. In addition to his traditional awards, Major Huitt is also a proud recipient of the Sergeant Major of the Army Van Autreve Leadership Award and the Saint Isidore Cyber Award.



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PAUL LESTER, PHD

2022 Senior Leadership Fellow

Dr. Lester is an Associate Professor and teaches ethical leadership at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. A retired U.S. Army officer, Paul received his undergraduate degree from West Point and doctorate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He was commissioned as an Infantry officer and later transferred to the Medical Service Corps as a research psychologist. He served on the West Point faculty and taught leadership, deployed to Iraq to study combat leadership, and next mentored faculty at the National Military Academy of Afghanistan. Dr. Lester helped found the Army's Research Facilitation Laboratory and is the recipient of the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award. He has published extensively on leadership, resilience, well-being, mentorship, and courage.



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MAJ PATRICK NAUGHTON
2022 Senior Leadership Fellow

Major Naughton is a Medical Service Corps Army Reserve officer and a Military Historian. He is currently serving as an Executive Officer in a Field Hospital. Naughton is a former Legislative Liaison to the US Senate, an Interagency Fellow, and a Congressional Partnership Program Fellow with the Partnership for a Secure America. He is a recipient of the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award. Patrick holds a Master of Military Arts and Science degree in History from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, where he was an Art of War Scholar, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He has published in several venues to include Military Review, Interagency Journal, Joint Force Quarterly, Journal of America's Military Past, Journal of the American Revolution, Journal of the Southwest, Military Images Magazine, and with National Defense University.



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LTC BRE WASHBURN

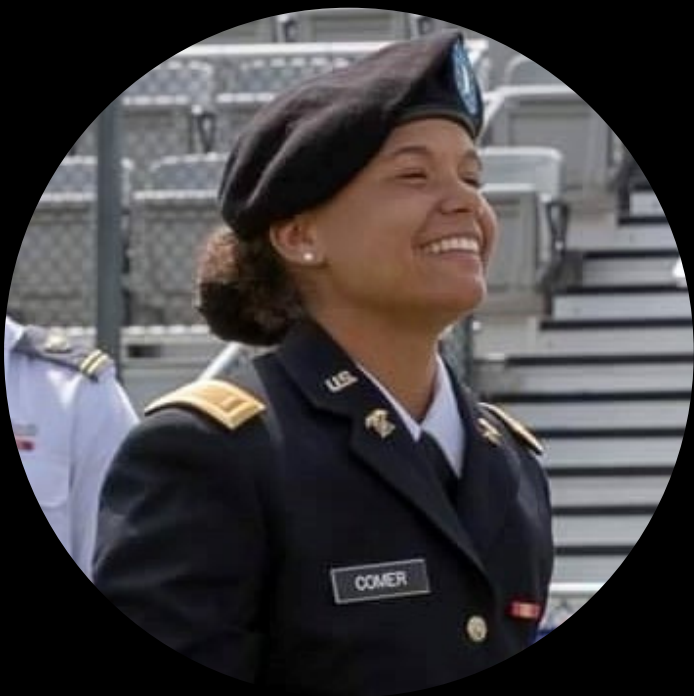
2022 Senior Leadership Fellow

Lieutenant Colonel Washburn is a Military Intelligence Officer with over eighteen years in the Army serving in tactical, operational, and strategic units. She is a 2003 graduate of the US Military Academy and is a Marshall and Truman scholar. She holds masters' degrees in International Security Studies, National Security Studies, and War Studies. Her broadening assignments include time with the Joint Special Operations Command and Theater Special Operations Command-Africa, as well as serving as a special advisor to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) commander. Bre's leader development interests include self- and community-development; mentorship; and diversity, equity, and inclusion.



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1LT NIKIAY COMER
2022 Leadership Fellow

First Lieutenant Comer graduated from the United States Military Academy in 2019, where she majored in Engineering Psychology. Upon graduation, she commissioned as a Quartermaster officer in the active-duty Army. Currently, she serves as an Executive Officer in the 1st Infantry Division. She has served as a Distribution Platoon Leader and the SSA Accountable Officer. Nikiay is passionate about helping others and positively impacting the world around her.



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CPT MICHAEL CROSEN

2022 Leadership Fellow

Captain Crosen is an Assistant Professor of Military Science at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). He is an Adjutant General officer and serves as a member of the United States Army Reserve AGR corps. He has previously served as a company commander for HHC, 457th CM BN, BN S1 for 457th CM BN, Chief of G1 Plans and Operations for 311th Signal Command (Theater), and various positions with 1st Space Brigade. Michael earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from California University of Pennsylvania and is currently working toward his advanced degree in Project Management. Upon completion of his current assignment, he will return to Colorado where he will serve as a Space Operations Officer (FA40).



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CPT JOSEF "POLO" DANCZUK

2022 Leadership Fellow

Captain Danczuk is an Air Defense Artillery Officer in the 53d Digital Liaison Detachment of the New York Army National Guard. He previously served on Active Duty as a Platoon Leader and Tactical Director in 5-7 ADA, a Patriot Battalion in Baumholder, Germany. He is a graduate of the Patriot Top Gun and ADA Fire Control Officer (ADAFCO) courses, as well as the Adjutant General Captains Career Course (CCC). Josef is an Army ROTC graduate from the University of Maryland '15, where he studied history and political science, and is currently a second-year law student at Columbia Law School.



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CPT SHAWN TA DIFALCO

2022 Leadership Fellow

Captain DiFalco lives in Washington state with her family where she previously served as a high school principal and volunteer Emergency Medical Technician at the local fire station. She is currently taking a pause from public school administration while deployed to the Middle East. CPT DiFalco has a Doctorate in Education and currently serves in the WA State National Guard as an Information Operations Officer and Special Technical Operations Chief.



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1LT CLINTON GRABLE
2022 Leadership Fellow

First Lieutenant Grable is a Military Intelligence Officer assigned to the 513th Military Intelligence Brigade at Fort Gordon, Georgia. He holds a BA in Government from Dartmouth College and is a graduate of Fort Benning's Officer Candidate School and Fort Huachuca's Military Intelligence Basic Officer Leader Course. Before commissioning, Clinton was a medic assigned to the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) at Fort Myer, VA, where he was a Military Horseman with the United States Army Caisson Platoon. He is passionate about developing himself, others, and our Army.



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CPT CLAYTON JAKSHA

2022 Leadership Fellow

Captain Jaksha is an Army Aviator qualified on the AH-64E with operational experience in Europe, Korea, Iraq, and Syria. He is originally from San Diego, CA, holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from USMA, and is an FAA commercial pilot and flight instructor. Clayton enjoys leading, teaching, and mentoring others both in and out of the cockpit.



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CPT TERRY LEE

2022 Leadership Fellow

Captain Lee graduated from West Point in 2017 and is an active duty engineer officer. He previously served at Fort Bliss, TX and deployed in support of Operations Spartan Shield and Atlantic Resolve. CPT Lee currently attends Missouri University of Science and Technology, where he is pursuing a Master's of Science degree in Engineering Management. Terry's next assignment will take him to Fort Belvoir, VA where he looks forward to taking command and serving in various staff positions. CPT Lee is a recipient of the 2020 CJO 30 under 30 Leader Developer Award.



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CPT JUSTIN LEUGERS

2022 Leadership Fellow

Captain Leugers is a Texas native. He is married and has 2 children. Justin commissioned as an Armor Officer from Tarleton State University with a bachelor's degree in Political Science. His first duty station was with the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, Fort Bliss, Texas where he served as a Tank Platoon Leader. He is currently a Basic Combat Training Company Commander at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. His military education includes the Armor Basic Officer Course, Army Reconnaissance Course, Master Fitness Trainer, and the Common Faculty Development Instructor Course.



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CPT MARC MELFI
2022 Leadership Fellow

Captain Melfi is a 2016 graduate of The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina and was commissioned as a Field Artillery officer. His previous assignments include serving as a company fire support officer, battery fire direction officer, howitzer platoon leader, and battery executive officer in the 3rd Infantry Division. Following the Field Artillery Captain's Career Course, Marc was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO, where he served as a division assistant fire support officer and a squadron fire support officer. He is currently serving as the battalion S4 for 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. Marc's leader development interests include mentorship, attribute identification, and leadership among teams.



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2LT MAXWELL MYERS

2022 Leadership Fellow

Born in Columbus, Georgia, 2LT Myers is a Military Intelligence officer and masters student at King's College London. Maxwell has focused much of his academic research on racial and ethnic politics domestically and abroad. In particular, his research explores ethnic conflict and mass mobilization in democratic societies. At West Point, Maxwell served as one of the cadets in charge of the Elevation Initiative: an organization devoted to developing and mentoring cadets into higher-level leadership positions.



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CPT BOBBY PEREZ
2022 Leadership Fellow

Captain Perez commissioned out of the ROTC program at Brigham Young University in 2014 where he earned his BA in Latin American Studies. His first assignment was at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA as a Military Police officer. Bobby attended Civil Affairs selection in 2018 and completed the Civil Affairs training pipeline in 2020. Currently, he serves as a Civil Affairs Team Leader in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Academically, he is pursuing his MA in National Security Studies with a Terrorism emphasis from the American Military University with an expected graduation date of April 2022. CPT Perez enjoys spending time with his wife and three children.



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CPT LUCY PERKINS
2022 Leadership Fellow

Captain Perkins is a Military Intelligence Officer in the Army Reserve. She enlisted as a Military Police Soldier in 2014 and commissioned through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps in 2016. Lucy held Reserve positions within the US Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command and the Military Intelligence Readiness Command. She completed an Active Duty assignment at Fort Belvoir with the US Army Criminal Investigation Division and deployed to Iraq in 2020 in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. She holds an undergraduate degree in Political Science and a Master of Urban Planning. She currently works in the U.S. House of Representatives.



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CPT MICAH PETERSEN
2022 Leadership Fellow

Captain Petersen is from Houston and most recently served as the Aide-de-Camp to the 10th Mountain DCG-S. He graduated in 2017 from the University of Delaware where he received the Alexander J. Taylor award for graduating as the top Male in the class of 2017 and completed a BA in International Relations and Mandarin, and a Master's degree in Geography focusing on Chinese migration to Africa. In 2017, he was also selected as a Schwarzman Scholar and earned a MA in Global Affairs from Tsinghua University. Micah is the founder of Reviresco, Inc., a nonprofit which works to bridge the civilian-military divide in the US. He is also the founder of an online bowtie company, has run across the United States four times, and is an avid triathlon and marathoner. He strives to live up to Philippians 2:3 in all that he does: "In humility, consider others more significant than yourself."



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CPT JOHN PLAZIAK
2022 Leadership Fellow

Captain Plaziak commissioned as a Signal Officer branch-detailed Field Artillery from San Diego State University ROTC in 2014. John served as a Troop Fire Support Officer, Platoon Leader, Battalion S4, and Assistant Brigade Fire Support Officer at 1-25 SBCT. After attending the Signal Captains' Career Course, he was assigned as a Battalion S6 for the 19th Military Police Battalion (CID) and has most recently commanded Alpha Company, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion. John has participated in one Pacific Pathways rotation and has deployed dozens of signal teams across the Pacific. CPT Plaziak has been selected to serve as an OC/T at the National Training Center.



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1LT ASHLEY SANCHEZ
2022 Leadership Fellow

First Lieutenant Sanchez is a Military Intelligence Officer in the US Army Reserves. Ashley first enlisted in the US Army in 2011. Soon after, In 2016, Ashley commissioned and earned a Bachelors of Science from the University of Houston. Since commissioning, Ashley has been able to operate as an intelligence officer for organizations such as US NORTHCOM, the DEA, and NATO. 1LT Sanchez is currently pursuing a Masters of Global Policy studies at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin and is assigned to the 75th Innovation Command in Houston, Texas.



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Captain Sims is a Psychological Operations officer. He graduated from Washington University in St. Louis and is a Truman Scholar. He has combat and joint experience.

CPT TEDDY SIMS
2022 Leadership Fellow



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Captain Slaughter is an active-duty Adjutant General officer currently serving as a battalion S1 at Fort Shafter, Hawaii. She commissioned in 2013 and holds a Master of Arts from Southern New Hampshire University. Over the past eight years, she has served as an S1 in 101st Airborne Division, 10th Mountain Division, and 25th Infantry Division, as well as the Deputy G1 of Train, Advise, Assist Command-East in Afghanistan. Kourtney has been selected to take command of Headquarters Company, United States Army at Fort Myer, VA in the summer of 2022. She currently lives in Honolulu, where she and her husband spend their free time instructing SCUBA courses.

CPT KOURTNEY SLAUGHTER

2022 Leadership Fellow



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1LT GLORIA SON
2022 Leadership Fellow

First Lieutenant Son is an active duty Engineer officer stationed at Fort Bliss, TX. She is a retired Division I athlete and received her bachelor's degree from West Point where she majored in Mechanical Engineering. While at the Academy, she served as the Army Women's Tennis Team Captain and also held a position as the Patriot League Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) representative. Gloria spent the first half year of her service at West Point operating as an Athletic Intern for the Army West Point Athletic Staff. Currently, she is finishing up her rotation in South Korea as an Engineer Support Platoon Leader and will return to Fort Bliss.



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2LT LEAH SPANGLER

2022 Leadership Fellow

Second Lieutenant Spangler has been a member of the Indiana National Guard for 8 years -6 years as an enlisted soldier, reaching the rank of sergeant, and 2 years as an officer. She commissioned in 2019 as a Field Artillery Officer. She has deployed twice, once to Kuwait in 2018 as an Operations NCO and to Iraq in 2020-2021 as a C-RAM battery executive officer. She has been selected for aviation by the Indiana Guard and will attend flight school as a WO1. She currently serves on active orders supporting the TF COVID mission as a battle captain. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Purdue University in 2019 and her Masters of Science degree in Organizational Leadership from Indiana Technical Institute in 2022.



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2LT CALEB VISSER
2022 Leadership Fellow

Second Lieutenant Visser is an active duty Military Intelligence officer. He commissioned from Princeton University Army ROTC in 2020 as a Distinguished Military Graduate and Spirit of Princeton Award recipient, concentrating in the Politics of International Relations. A deferred Schwarzman Scholar to Tsinghua University, Caleb is interested in the intersection of community development and international security, specifically in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa. He is committed to cultivating community, nurturing a growth mindset, developing others, and strengthening the team everywhere he serves. Caleb is currently stationed in Germany as a Brigade Tactical Intelligence Officer.



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CPT FLEM WALKER
2022 Leadership Fellow

Captain Walker is a native of Lineville, AL. He graduated from Auburn University with a B.A. in History in 2017 and earned a M.A. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Louisville in 2021. CPT Walker's first duty assignment was in 1-9 FA, 2ABCT, 3ID of Fort Stewart, GA as a Company Fire Support Officer, Platoon Leader, and Executive Officer. He most recently served as an Assistant Professor of Military Science at Howard University. CPT Walker was recently engaged in May of 2021 to his fiancée, Rebecca Irvin. His hobbies include travel, cooking, sports, fitness, and spending time with his two dogs Lucy and Tuck. He is an avid fan of the Auburn Tigers and served as a Tiger Host in the recruiting department for the football team during his college years. War Eagle!



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2LT MICHAEL WATKINS

2022 Leadership Fellow

Second Lieutenant Watkins graduated with a degree in Middle Eastern Studies/Arabic in 2015. He was a Gilman International Scholar and formally studied in both Jordan and Israel. Shortly thereafter, he enlisted for active duty. After over five years of enlisted service, he commissioned through the Officer Candidate School (OCS) in 2021 as a Signal officer. Michael has trained in Persian Farsi at the Defense Language Institute, served with 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, and will serve with the 1st Armored Division. Lieutenant Watkins enjoys carpentry, cycling, and running in his free time.



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2LT MAX WEISMAN
2022 Leadership Fellow

Second Lieutenant Weisman is a Field Artillery Officer, 2021 West Point graduate, and 2021 CJO 30 under 30 recipient. As an undergraduate, Max developed an interest in innovation-focused companies - which led him to intern at companies including the private equity firm, Blackstone. At Blackstone, Max worked in portfolio operations and assisted with the veteran's initiative. 2LT Weisman also created a leadership organization, Leaders of Character, which aims to influence the next generation of leaders through interviews with prominent leaders that provide differing perspectives on leadership development. Some of the leaders interviewed have included U.S. Secretary of State, Army Generals, and CEOs of companies such as PepsiCo and Procter & Gamble.



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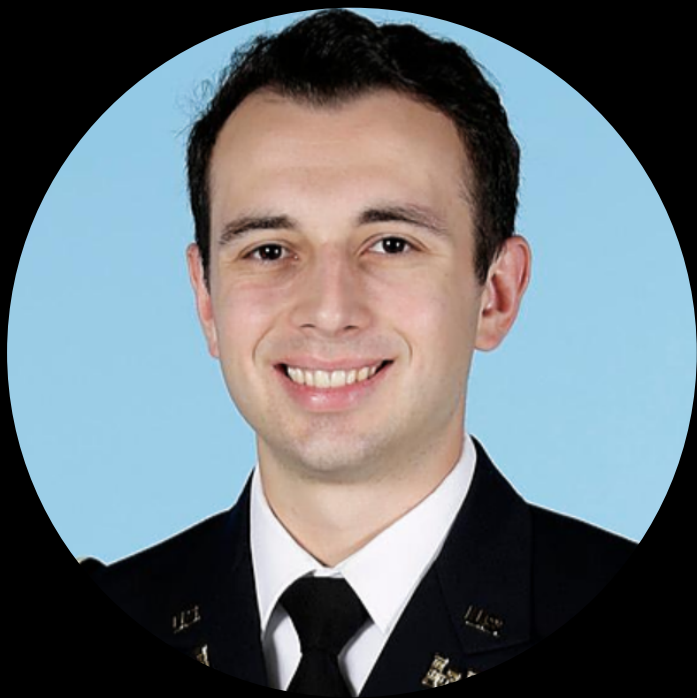
CPT AUSTIN WESLEY
2022 Leadership Fellow

Captain Wesley is an active duty Engineer currently assigned to Colorado School of Mines Army ROTC as the Assistant Professor of Military Science. He graduated from Viterbo University with a B.A. in Technology Education and commissioned through ROTC as a Distinguished Military Graduate. He earned his master's degree at Missouri S&T in Geological Engineering simultaneously completing his Project Management Professional certification. His previous assignments include time at Fort Carson, CO where he served as a Platoon Leader and Executive Officer. Austin spent the last four years at Fort Bragg, NC serving as a Battalion Engineer for a Civil Affairs unit and completed company command in an airborne Engineer Support Company. He spends his free time reading and spending time with his amazing wife and son.



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1LT KEVIN WOLGAST
2022 Leadership Fellow

First Lieutenant Wolgast is an active-duty Engineer officer. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 2020 with a degree in Computer Science and was captain of the Orienteering team as well as a leading member of the Student Conference for United States Affairs (SCUSA). Kevin is focused on helping the Army create and maintain 21st Century Soldiers who are powerful, empathetic, and forward-thinking individuals. He is personally interested in the development and influences of technology as well as the United States' international relations with China. Kevin is currently serving as a Platoon Leader in the 630th Clearance Company, 11th Engineers Battalion under the 2nd Infantry Division at Camp Humphreys, South Korea.



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