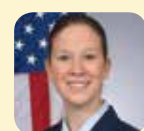




**Brandon K. Alexander**  
Army, SGT  
US Operations Manager,  
Penspen

In the 11 years since Brandon Alexander exited the Army, he has progressively moved through the ranks of the oil and gas industry. He started as a field technician, doing hands-on work. Today, Alexander is a U.S. Operations Manager at Penspen, an industry provider of engineering and management services. Alexander was a SGT, serving as an Avionics Mechanic from 1999 to 2005. He was awarded two Army Achievement Medals and an Army Commendation Medal. He served in both Iraq and Bosnia.



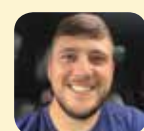
**Colleen S. Balik-Meisner**  
Air Force, SSGT  
Information Systems  
Security Officer, Seymour  
Johnson AFB, NC

In late 2014, Air Force SSGT Colleen Susan Balik-Meisner was handpicked to take over her squadron's Unit Training Manager position. She received a Commendation Medal for managing the training program for 72 active duty Airmen. Balik-Meisner also created the 4th Communications Squadron's Junior Enlisted Counsel at Seymour Johnson AFB, NC. The Counsel provides a route for young Airmen (ranks E-1 to E-4) to get their voice to the Commander and other squadron leaders without repercussions," she says. She also volunteers off base with local schools.



**Michael E. Boardman**  
Navy, PO1  
Law school student and  
Senior Test Engineer,  
General Dynamics  
Electric Boat

At age 25, Navy PO1 Michael Boardman was Leading Petty Officer for the Submarine Sonar A School. Currently, Boardman is a senior test engineer for General Dynamics Electric Boat. He is returning to the Navy in fall 2017 as an LTJG JAG officer, after graduating from Quinnipiac University School of Law. Boardman has two Master's degrees from University of Phoenix and Liberty University. He has a Bachelor's in Society and Justice from the University of Connecticut and an AAS in Electronics from Thomas Edison State University.



**Zachary Branum**  
Navy, PO1  
Inventory Manager,  
WIS International

Navy PO1 Zachary Branum deployed to Antarctica twice and received the Antarctic Service medal. He also deployed to Afghanistan with Task Group Trident, where he was a gunner for the Quick Reaction Force. Branum received the NATO forces medal, Army Achievement Medal, Navy Achievement Medal and Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two stars. Currently, he's at WIS International as an Inventory Manager. Previously, he was Director of the Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program Key West, FL. Branum has a Bachelor's of Business Administration from Colorado Technical University.



**Daniel J. Cain**  
Air Force, MSgt  
Munitions Section Chief

Air Force MSgt Daniel Cain "has had an impeccable track record," says his Flight Chief, Jacqueline Villanueva. "As a young airman, he was selected for the coveted position of Munitions Inspector, a position routinely held by a staff sergeant," Villanueva says. He received a Bachelor's from Ashford University in Business Administration in January 2015 and is expected to graduate from Columbia Southern University in December 2017 with a Master's in Organizational Management. His military exit date is July 2021.



**Ryan Callaway**  
Army, SSG  
Nurse

Georgia Army National Guard SSG Ryan Callaway has participated in countless humanitarian missions. From 2000 to 2005, he worked monthly with the homeless in Atlanta through Straight Street Ministries. In 2007, Callaway spent six months in Beirut, Lebanon, as a paraprofessional at Beirut Baptist School. In 2012, Callaway graduated from Geor-

gia State University with a B.S. in Nursing. He is currently the Recruiting and Retention NCO for the Georgia Army National Guard in Athens, GA, and is working on an MBA at Brenau University.



**Jeremiah B. Carlson**  
Air Force, Maj  
Fighter Pilot, 4-Ship Flight Lead  
and Flight Commander in the  
F-15E Strike Eagle

After graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 2005, Maj Jeremiah Carlson trained as a Weapons Systems Officer in the F-15E Strike Eagle. He deployed to Afghanistan and to locations around the world several times. He attended pilot training in 2012, and returned to the F-15E. He's a 4-ship flight lead in the F-15E at Mountain Home AFB, ID, and Flight Commander. "His professionalism and talent led directly to saving the lives of many U.S. and coalition troops on the ground," says former Maj Jake Anderson.



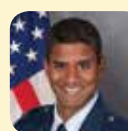
**Ryan I. Carlson**  
Marines, Capt  
Tactical Mishap Investigator,  
office of Commandant of the  
Marine Corps Safety Division

Capt Ryan Carlson is a tactical mishap investigator for Headquarters Marine Corps Safety Division. He exits service in May 2017. He analyzes significant accidents to determine causing factors. His recommendations for corrective action often impact policy, techniques, tactics and procedures across the Marine Corps, says Jon Natividad, Director, Investigations Division. "There is no doubt that Capt Carlson's efforts have preserved valuable Marine Corps' resources and saved Marine's lives," Natividad says. Carlson has an M.S. in Logistics and Supply Chain Management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.



**David Closson**  
Army, SGT  
Consultant for Substance  
Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration

David Closson's book, "Motivational Interviewing for Campus Police," published in 2015, is changing how officers interact with students. He was an officer at Eastern Illinois University. The book "elicits and builds students' own internal motivation to change their high-risk behavior," he says. Closson is a former Army SGT who deployed to Iraq in 2005. Today, he is a consultant for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. He is also a professional speaker with "ForCollegeForLife," where he focuses on serving student veterans.



**Rabindra M. David**  
Air Force, Capt  
Lawyer, Orrick law firm,  
Sacramento

After serving as a navigator maintenance officer and then becoming a civilian litigator, Capt Rabindra David came full circle and became an Air Force Judge Advocate General. David legally advised over 100 commanders and supervisors from 2014 to 2016, says Lt Col Patrick Schwemmer, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate. He became Chief of Military Justice, managing over 50 cases and investigations. This September, he started at the Orrick law firm in Sacramento, CA. He received his Juris Doctor from Pepperdine University in May 2010.



**Gia DeHart**  
Navy, LTJG  
First Lieutenant Division  
Officer, Naval Base Coronado

Coming from a family of ice cream cone makers, nurses and musicians, Navy LTJG Gia DeHart says she "had zero exposure to the military" but was influenced by the events of 9/11. She graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2012. As a public affairs officer, DeHart once coordinated with entertainment professionals to enhance public awareness of the U.S. Navy in support of TNT's hit show "The Last Ship" and FOX's "Grease Live." She is a First Lieutenant Division Officer, Naval Base Coronado.



**Doug Delpha**  
Air Force, SSGT  
Assistant Distribution  
Manager at Dealer Tire  
in Houston

Doug Delpha finished his Master's degree in June at the International University in Geneva.

His thesis was on Artificial Intelligence/Automation and their Effects on International Trade. In winter 2017, he is scheduled to start a graduate certificate program at Harvard University in either Organizational Behavior or Strategic Management. He currently is working as an Assistant Distribution Manager at Dealer Tire in Houston, TX. From November 2015 to May 2016, he was an analyst at the Geneva Institute of Geopolitics in Switzerland.



**David R. Dixon**  
Marines, Maj  
Published author and  
Reservist, stationed in New  
Orleans with Marine Forces  
Reserve headquarters

Maj David Dixon is a Marine Corps AH-1W Cobra attack helicopter pilot and Reservist. He completed two combat deployments to Iraq, one deployment to Japan and two flying tours aboard Navy ships. His book, "Call in the Air," won the 2014 Robert A. Gannon award for distinguished poetry from the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. A second book, "Goodnight Marines," was released in hardcover in January 2016. Dixon has two Master's degrees from Harvard Graduate School of Education and Stanford Graduate School of Business.



**Kaisha S. Gurtner**  
Air Force, TSgt  
Air Force Reservist,  
currently deployed to  
Afghanistan

Air Force TSgt Kaisha Gurtner is a Reservist who has been in Afghanistan since April. Before her deployment, she was Guest Services Manager with Embassy Suites in Grapevine, TX, and worked there since March 2012. "She built a strong and dedicated staff, trained them and improved results in areas such as cost containment, service to guests and employee morale," says General Manager Todd Raburn. Gurtner has also volunteered for the Grapevine Battered Women's Shelter and YMCA. She was named Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year-Maintenance Group in 2015.



**Shaye L. Haver**  
Army, CPT  
First female graduate of Army  
Ranger School

The rigorous Army Ranger School has not been an option for women soldiers historically. But in 2015, CPT Shaye Haver (along with CPT Kristen Griest) received this elite designation. At the time, Haver was a 1LT and was one of 19 women to start the school and one of 400 total students. At the end, she and Griest completed the full course, plus 94 men. Ranger school includes a five-mile run in 40 minutes, a 12-mile march in three hours and an air assault in Florida swamps.



**Ryan Henderson**  
Army, MAJ  
U.S. Regional Sales  
Director for Houston and  
Northeastern regions at  
Peak Completions

Army MAJ Ryan Henderson is U.S. Regional Sales Director at oil-and-gas company Peak Completion Technologies Inc. in Midland, TX. "One of his greatest accomplishments is managing the highest grossing sales team in our company every year he has been in the sales management role," says company VP Bryan Fitzhugh. Henderson serves in the Army Reserve in Texas. In 2004-2005, he deployed to Iraq with the Louisiana National Guard where his infantry platoon conducted over 330 combat patrols. After deployment, Henderson became a U.S. Army Ranger.



**Aaron J. Holler**  
Coast Guard, LT  
Project Manager, Cognizant  
Technology Solutions

Search and Rescue is the Coast Guard's primary mission. Former LT Aaron Holler carried out that mission as a Rescue Helicopter Pilot. In four-and-a-half years, Holler saved 12 lives and assisted 102 others during life threatening situations in adverse weather conditions. He also was a Tactical Drug Interdiction Helicopter Pilot who accomplished the first-ever U.S. helicopter "Airborne Use of Force" drug interdiction while partnering with the Royal Netherlands. He separated in June 2015 and is a project manager at Cognizant Technology Solutions.



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**Steven Jaworski**  
Navy, LT  
USN Naval Aviator

Naval Aviator Steven Jaworski is a Plans and Policy Action Officer in Arlington, VA. He is most proud of becoming a Helicopter Aircraft Commander/Mission Commander, in which he led young pilots and aircrewmembers. Jaworski developed an aviation preparation program at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor). He was a naval ambassador to CEOs of major corporations, participating in Boston College Center for Work and Family roundtables. He will graduate in May 2018 with an MBA from the University of Maryland Robert H. Smith School of Business.



**Matthew S. Juntz**  
Army, 1LT  
Security Specialist, U.S.  
Department of Justice

Matthew Juntz is a member of a Classified Information Security Officer team at the U.S. Department of Justice. He is a neutral party that assists federal courts in litigation involving classified information. In July, Juntz, also an Army Reservist 1LT, was appointed as an Aide de Camp Officer for a two-star general with the 412th Theater Engineer Command in Vicksburg, MS. In addition, he is a part-time student at Henley-Putnam University in San Jose, CA, working towards a Doctorate in Strategic Studies.



**Pete Kelley**  
Army, CPT  
Project Manager, Defense  
Centers of Excellence for  
Psychological Health and  
Traumatic Brain Injury

Former Army CPT Peter Kelley is a project manager at the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury. He oversees projects having a direct impact on addressing the psychological health issues for service members. "Serving as support and overseeing projects in this space reconnected me to the military community," Kelley says. A West Point graduate, Kelley commissioned into the Air Defense Artillery branch. He later graduated from Air Defense Artillery Fire Control Officer School and the rigorous Patriot Top Gun course.



**Adam Klich**  
Marines, LCpl  
Innovation Advisor with RTI  
International, NC

Adam Klich is a "serious, devoted student with a breadth of interests ranging from engineering and science to entrepreneurship to the impact of technology on society and the environment," says Lois Peters, associate professor at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Klich graduated from RPI in 2015 with a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering. He received a Master's in Technology Commercialization and Entrepreneurship in 2016. Today, he is an Innovation Advisor with RTI International.



**Kyle Kremser**  
Navy, PO1  
System Supervisor,  
DTE Energy

During his last three years in the Navy, PO1 Kyle Kremser handled courses for over 125 first accession Sailors and also mentored 15 staff. He was a Master Training Specialist at the Naval Submarine School in Groton, CT. Kremser's Naval career offered him extensive experience in the operation, maintenance and repair of nuclear submarine communications, electronic support measures and information technology systems. He exited in July and started a new job in August as a System Supervisor at DTE Energy in Detroit, MI.



**James M. Landreth**  
Navy, LT  
Nuclear Engineer,  
Nuclear Power Training Unit  
of Charleston, SC

Active duty Navy LT James Landreth has been a nuclear engineer since January 2013 at the Navy's Nuclear Power Training Unit of Charleston, SC. He has a Master's in Nuclear Engineering from the University of South Carolina and also an S.C. Professional Engineer license. He served on the USS Alaska as Officer of the Deck at sea and Ship's Duty Officer in port. As senior qualified Strategic Weapons Duty Officer onboard, he provided "invaluable" leadership during sensitive operations, says CAPT Robert Wirth, under whom Landreth served.



**Joshua J. Larson**  
Navy, LT  
Director of Manufacturing  
with Twin City Fan  
Companies, Brookings, SD  
and Navy Reservist

Navy Reservist LT Joshua Larson works full-time as Director of Manufacturing with Twin City Fan Companies in Brookings, SD. He oversees nine manufacturing sites in North America. Larson exited active duty in 2011 but is still in the Reserves and is the Commanding Officer of a unit in Kansas City. In 2010, he graduated from the Army's Special Forces Assessment and Selection Course. In 2012, Larson and his friends launched a new church. Larson was Treasurer and CFO. He has an MBA from Liberty University.



**Michael Lewis**  
Air Force, 1st Lt  
Account Executive, VMware  
in Austin, TX

As an Account Executive at VMware in Austin, TX, former Air Force 1st Lt Michael Lewis is managing a four-state territory while consulting with companies on their virtualization, cloud and security strategies. In the Air Force, Lewis was a Range Control Officer at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, FL. He led nine to 15 airmen on day of launch operations during nine different launches including the Space Shuttle and the Curiosity Mars Rover.



**Greg Lozeau**  
Navy, LCDR  
Senior Project Manager,  
Apple Inc.

As a mobilized Reserve officer, Navy LCDR Gregory Lozeau was called to active duty to the Joint Special Operations Command. Lozeau served as an Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Battle Captain in Djibouti, Africa, from March 2015 to January 2016. As Deputy Director for Operations at a forward deployed Joint Air Operations Center, Lozeau executed 20 daily combat mission flights and conducted air strikes in support of special operation forces on the ground. In the civilian world, Lozeau is a Senior Project Manager at Apple Inc.



**Alexander McCoy**  
Marines, Sgt  
Political Science Student,  
Columbia University, and  
Co-Founder of High Ground  
Veterans Advocacy

Marine Sgt Alexander McCoy was an embassy guard in Saudi Arabia, Honduras and Germany. As a Squad Leader at the embassy in Berlin, McCoy protected President Obama during his public address in the central square. After exiting in 2013, McCoy pursued political science studies at Columbia University. He co-founded High Ground Veterans Advocacy, which trains veterans to influence their political representatives. McCoy is also the Marine co-chair of the Council of Former Enlisted.



**Zach Mierva**  
Army, CPT  
Test Officer, Operational Test  
Command

Since April, Army CPT Zach Mierva has been a Test Officer at Operational Test Command in Coppers Cove, TX. He develops scenarios for soldiers to test equipment under simulated combat conditions. Mierva was also recipient of the 2014 Draper Armor Leadership Award for Best Armor Company in the 1st Cavalry Division. He will start graduate school at Columbia in June 2017, followed by an assignment at West Point as a Tactical Officer.



**Miles Nelson**  
Marines, Sgt  
Student Veterans of America  
Liaison for Department of  
Texas VFW

Miles Nelson, a Marine veteran, ensures "student veterans in the state of Texas are as successful as they can possibly be." He is the Student Veterans of America Liaison for Department of Texas VFW. He also is Assistant Veteran Service Officer for Hays County Veterans Services in Texas, helping the military community navigate benefits. Nelson served from 2001 to 2009 as an Infantry Assaultman.



**Stefan Ramos**  
Marines, Cpl  
Quality Insurance Inspector

Active duty Marine Cpl Stefan Ramos is a quality assurance inspector in Beaufort, SC. He ensures the quality of components that are installed into aircraft. As a day shift and production supervisor, he also instructs colleagues on proper maintenance procedures. "My other leadership positions include representing my work center through Lean Six Sigma, attending production control meetings, implementing correct repair capability on components and equipment, as well as ensuring proper tool management," he says. Ramos also volunteers with his church.



**James Ramsay**  
Navy, PO2  
Systems Engineer, Caterpillar  
Inc.

James Ramsay is a systems engineer at the Caterpillar CoGen facility in Mossville, IL. "A great work ethic and determination to succeed has enabled him to take the lead and address several electrical and control issues that factory or OEM technicians could not correct," says Plant Superintendent Ron Markle. Ramsay is pursuing an electrical engineering degree at Bradley University. He has three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals. In the Navy, Ramsay was supervisor of a main engine room and a gas turbine electrical shop.



**Anthony D. Ripley**  
Navy, LCDR  
Currently Active Duty

Marine Capt Anthony Ripley "is the most innovative and inventive leader I have worked with in years," says Col James Caley. Ripley, who is still on active duty, developed an award-winning, power-and-water harvesting system for dismounted warfighters on multi-day missions in austere environments. In addition, Ripley drove the development of technologies that reduced the logistics burden on warfighters. "His work in leading energy harvesting and water scavenging technology identification will enable Marines of the future to carry less while going farther and longer," Caley says.



**Jacob Robinson**  
Marines, Sgt  
Advanced Aviation  
Electronics Technician

Marine Sgt Jacob Robinson is a work center supervisor of 25 fellow service members at an advanced test equipment work center, specializing in electronic warfare. Since December 2012, he has been an Advanced Aviation Electronics Technician in the Marines, calibrating and troubleshooting Avionic and similar electronic systems. Robinson has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Electronic Systems Technologies and a Bachelor's in Electronic Systems Technology from Southern Illinois University Carbondale.



**Riley Robinson**  
Navy, LT  
Assistant Professor of Naval  
Science, Maine Maritime  
Academy, NROTC Unit

As an Assistant Professor of Naval Science at the Maine Maritime Academy NROTC, Riley Robinson prepares and trains future officers. His efforts "have directly contributed to the creation of a command climate that fosters respect and cooperation," says Robinson's commanding officer, Tim Cooper. He devoted "countless" hours preparing midshipmen for Naval Nuclear Propulsion technical interviews. He is also a Volunteer Cross Country Ski Instructor for 25 children with Blue Hill Peninsula Nordic Ski Club. Robinson has a B.S. in Microbiology from the University of Rochester.



**Tyrone Rowe**  
Army, SSG  
Operations Manager, Shaw  
Air Force Base

Army SSG Tyrone Rowe's Army career has focused on logistics, and he is currently an Automated Logistics Specialist and Operational Manager. He coordinates the work of various departments involved in production, warehousing and distribution of goods at Shaw Air Force Base. "He never complains and always gives 120 percent, which is the reason he is always placed in jobs that are very demanding," says

SFC Shaun McMillan. Rowe is working towards a Doctor in Philosophy at Northcentral University. He has an MBA from Phoenix University.



**Lindsey Gillick Spahr**  
Coast Guard, LT  
Health Safety &  
Environment Program  
Leader, Procter & Gamble

Lindsey Spahr has become a widely respected leader at Procter & Gamble, developing manufacturing capability to bring household brand names such as Febreze and Cascade to market, says Dave Nicholson, Operations Leader. Since April, Spahr has been a Site Health Safety & Environment Program Leader in St. Louis, MO. Previously, she was Cascade Operational Department Manager, responsible for three businesses, 60+ technicians, four managers and four production lines. Spahr served in the Coast Guard from 1999 to 2004 and has an MBA from Capella University.



**Nathan Terrazone**  
Air Force, Maj  
Advanced Space Systems  
Program Manager, Los  
Angeles Air Force Base

As an Advanced Space Systems Program Manager at Los Angeles Air Force Base, Maj Nathan Terrazone handles cutting edge technology. A recent project involved launching four satellites into geosynchronous orbit for the future of American space habitation. His team won the Space and Missile Systems Center annual award. Terrazone also won the Program Manager of the Year award while working for the Missile Defense Agency. Terrazone has an MBA from the University of Florida. He has competed with and captained the USAF Rugby team.



**Andrew Torres**  
Air Force, TSgt  
Executive Assistant to  
the Superintendent/55  
Ops Group and Language  
Analyst

In 2010, Air Force TSgt Andrew Torres (then SrA) became the lead operator in his deployed squadron. "We were a brand new unit in OEF (Operation Enduring Freedom), so the pressure to succeed was magnified," he recalls. He established an in-theater training and certification program. After he returned home, Torres revamped it to ensure it stayed relevant to overseas operations. Today, Torres is Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/55 Ops Group and Language Analyst. He has an Associate Degree in Intermediate Chinese-Mandarin from the Defense Language Institute.



**Karthik Venkatraj**  
Army National Guard,  
Colorado, CPT  
Law school student,  
University of Colorado  
(Boulder)

Recently, Army National Guard CPT Karthik Venkatraj deployed to Jordan, followed by a combat tour in Iraq. In Jordan, he trained senior Jordanian officers. Then in Iraq, Venkatraj worked with a multi-national coalition and engaged with Iraqi Army Aviation generals. After returning home, he and his fiancée became involved in American Military Family, a non-profit focused on stopping veteran suicide through combat veteran counselors. Venkatraj is the primary staff officer for one of two brigades in the Colorado Army National Guard and a law school student.



**Laymond 'Lay' Wilburn**  
Air Force, Capt  
Law student at Thurgood  
Marshall School of Law,  
Texas Southern University

Air Force Capt Laymond Wilburn is a third-year law student at Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Texas Southern University. He separated from the Air Force in 2014, but he is scheduled to meet the October 2016 board for Air Force JAG. After starting law school, Wilburn interned with two Federal Judges, the Department of State, the United States Attorney's office and several other agencies. In 2014, Wilburn served as the Deputy CJ6 at the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force, Camp Vance, Afghanistan.