

Great Lakes Field Force,

I am extremely excited to begin work as the new Regional Commander for Great Lakes Admissions. Together, we will guide the next generation of Army officers into West Point, and extend the Long Gray Line.

I have already spoken to several of you via phone and email, but I wanted to formally introduce myself. I am the incoming Great Lakes Regional Commander and will be replacing CPT Al Gomez. All of the incoming Regional Commanders and new Outreach Officers just finished our initial training this week and have conducted a lot of on-the-job training. We have been busy closing out the Class of 2019 as they just arrived on Monday.

Here is a short bio so that you all have a little background on me:

I am 2005 graduate of the United States Military Academy, having majored in Environmental Geography. I commissioned into the Engineers and after the Basic Course spent three years in the 82nd Airborne Division as a Sapper Platoon Leader deploying to Afghanistan for 15 months. After attending the Advanced Course, I had the good fortune of spending three years in lovely Europe where I commanded the 535th Engineer Support Company. This tour included command down range for a year in Afghanistan conducting Route Clearance. After Command I served for three years as a tactics instructor in the Department of Military Instruction here at West Point before landing in Admissions. My family and I were able to extend an extra year here to accommodate our adoption of a child.

My high school sweetheart (Jen) and I have three beautiful children, Abigail (8), Ansley (7), and Connor (3). I come from a long military background as my father was a career officer along with my father-in-law. My wife served 4 years as an Engineer officer as well having graduated from the University of Richmond ROTC program.

Getting into West Point is an arduous task and you, the Field Force, are absolutely critical as you help identify, recruit, and motivate these outstanding candidates. Your quick and candid feedback helps me to get a better feel for our candidates and provides me with the relevant information needed to make the best decisions. Your efforts help shape the Corps, whose second and third order effects reach far beyond these gray walls. I am truly grateful for the dedication and outstanding efforts of our field force, as I have heard great things.

I am also incredibly grateful for everything that CPT Gomez has done. I trust that our amazing Field Force will make this transition seamless.

I ask that you all please bear with me as I am still learning all of our processes and systems. I will send out guidance concerning the Class of 2020 in the near future. Again, I am thrilled to be part of the team and I look forward to working with you all. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need anything and, if you're in the area, please stop by the Admissions Office and say hello.

Beat Navy!

Wade H. Smith
Captain, United States Army
Great Lakes Regional Commander
Admissions, West Point

