

/ˈe-mə-ˌser-ē/ (noun) a leader specifically sent on a special mission as a diplomatic representative for MilitaryMentors

Cohort Nine



Sean Kelly is an Emergency Management Officer with Alberta Health Services EMS. Sean has spent more than two decades working in the Paramedic profession. Sean has worked in both urban and rural settings in Alberta. He has worked in the special operations area for a good portion of his frontline career both in tactical and air operations. Sean has spent time as a Deployment Manager, Paramedic Supervisor and Strategic Supervisor. Sean's desire to continue to support the service and his community led him to seek out a strategic planning role with emergency management. Sean spent much of his youth living abroad in Europe and Africa, but now calls Alberta home. Sean volunteers with both local and national sporting associations. He spends as much time as possible with his wife chasing his two sons from sport to sport. When he has time to relax with his family, he enjoys unwinding in the Rocky Mountains.



James D. O'Neal enlisted in the Army in 2005 and later commissioned as an Engineer Officer through the Army Green to Gold ROTC Program. He has served in various roles including Sapper Platoon Leader, Battalion S-1, Aide-de-Camp, Training Officer, and Company Commander. Captain O'Neal has completed multiple military courses, deployed twice, and received numerous awards and decorations. James is married and the proud father of three daughters.



Sean M. Lindsay is currently serving as the IMA to the Space Delta 7/CC, Peterson Space Force Base, CO. Previously, he served as the Senior Lead for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Planning in the ISR Plans & Resources Division, Headquarters Space Operations Command Prior to receiving his commission, he served six years of enlistment in the United States Marine Corps as a machinist with assignments in California and Okinawa, Japan. He received his commission in August 2001 through the Air Force Officer Training School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.



Dr. MSG Dwayne Chaney is a native of Houston, TX currently serving active duty in the United States Army as the Program Manager and Equal Opportunity Advisor for the Network Enterprise Technology Command, at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. He has served as the Senior Information Tech, Information Management Officer for the entire Eastern Atlantic and Midwestern region for the U.S. Army. Dr. Chaney has served nine months in Iraq working as the Team Chief for a Command Post Node Team alongside the US Special Forces and Iraqi Army General.



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Ingrid E. Paige is an active-duty member of the United States Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps with over 13 years of service and 18 years as an attorney. She is currently serving as the Deputy Director of the Staff Judge Advocate Counsel Assistance Program at the Office of the Judge Advocate General. Prior to commissioning into the Navy, Ingrid was an Assistant District Attorney at the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office in Boston, Massachusetts, where she served as the Supervisor of the Dorchester Division of the SCDAO. She graduated from Boston College Law School in 2006 and Cornell College in 2003 and is originally from Lemont, Illinois. Ingrid is married to William and they have two children who are ten and seven.



Devon A. Richio is an experienced Fire Battalion Chief with the Philadelphia Fire Department, where he has served since 2008. He holds a Master of Professional Studies in Emergency & Disaster Management from Georgetown University and a Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Administration from Neumann University. In his current role, Richio serves as a Fire Battalion Chief in Battalion 4, serving Olde City. Previous assignments include Homeland Security Officer, Planning Section Chief, Captain of Ladder Company 12, Lieutenant of Engine Company 50, Staff Instructor and Firefighter at Ladder Company 13. He has led multi-million dollar public safety projects, developed incident management action plans, and coordinated major events in Philadelphia. His expertise includes emergency planning, operational leadership, and data analysis using Geographic Information Systems. Devon is a recent graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. Prior to his civilian career, Richio served in the United States Marine Corps from 2006 to 2013, including a deployment to Afghanistan as a Civil Affairs Supervisor, attached to 3D Reconnaissance Battalion.



Vito Impastato currently serves as an Assistant Chief of Operations with Contra Costa County Fire Protection District location in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has been a firefighter for over 21 years and has served in Contra Costa County for 20 of those years. He has been married for 28 years and has two daughters, Mia 21 and Gianna 19. Vito has a Bachelor of Arts from Bethany College and is currently working on his Masters in Psychology. He enjoys mountain biking and hiking and in 2022 completed the John Muir Trail with aspirations of completing the entirety of the Pacific Crest Trail in 2030.



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Yanelle Gaviña is from Pasadena, CA and currently resides in Arlington, VA. A "Double Trojan", Yanelle attended the University of Southern California for her Bachelor's Degree in Creative Writing (2010) and Master's Degree in Business Administration (2016). Yanelle has worked as a DoD Civilian for five years across three branches - Army, Air Force, and currently as a Digital Information Manger for HQ Space Force. A natural innovator with a high tolerance for risk, Yanelle prefers fast paced working environments with frequent change and opportunities to learn. In her free time, she loves to find adventures outdoors.



Kwame Boateng served as commander, 307th Airborne Engineer Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division from 2020 – 2022. His career began deployed with the 37th Engineer Battalion (Combat)(Airborne) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan 2006 –2007. LTC Boateng's military education includes the National War College, School for Advanced Military Studies, Command and General Staff College, Engineer Company Command Course, and the Engineer Officer Basic Course. LTC Boateng is also a graduate of the Sapper Leader Course, US Army Ranger School, Advanced Airborne School. LTC Boateng was born in Newark, New Jersey and is the oldest of seven highly decorated siblings. He and his wife have two young girls, and a puppy named Jersey. He is currently assigned as the Mission Assurance Director, Defense Logistics Agency, Fort Belvoir, VA.



Gilberto Martinez is a dedicated and experienced warrant officer in the U.S Army. Born in Mexico, he immigrated to the United States in 2001. CW2 Martinez joined the Army in October 2013 and completed advanced individual training as a 68A (Biomedical Equipment Technician) at The Medical Education & Training Campus, Ft. Sam Houston, TX. In 2021, CW2 Martinez was selected into the 670A Health Services Maintenance Warrant Officer Program and graduated Warrant Officer Candidate School in February 2022. He holds a bachelor's degree in healthcare management from Franklin University and a professional certification in Information Technology (Security +), and he is a Certified Healthcare Technology Manager (CHMT). CW2 Martinez is a highly skilled and dedicated professional who brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his role at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.



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Dewayne Andre Roper, originally from Capitol Heights, Maryland, served with distinction in the United States Marine Corps for over 16 years, beginning his career at the age of seventeen in 1999. Rising through the ranks, Roper excelled in various leadership roles. After retiring from the Marines as a Gunnery Sergeant in 2015, Roper transitioned into civilian life, embarking on a successful career path marked by leadership and achievement. In 2017, Roper brought his leadership skills to the Department of Veteran Affairs VA Maryland Healthcare Systems as a Training Specialist. Here, he focused on instructional system design, talent management, and the delivery of specialized training programs. Roper's role ensures national compliance and operational excellence for approximately 17,000 employees, highlighting his dedication to supporting veterans and advancing organizational goals. Additionally, he founded Roper Enterprises LLC and Joint Venture, Enduring Logistics Group LLC, leveraging his expertise in property investment, logistics management, and leadership development. His entrepreneurial endeavors underscore his commitment to excellence and service, bridging military expertise with civilian success.