

During Ramadan in November of 2003, I merely had one full month of combat experience. As the new commander of an airborne counter-fire unit, I learned that to be more effective in Iraq we needed to change how we conducted our operations. I then made the decision to continue a lifetime of service and more effectively bridge the differences across nations.

Service and leadership have been constant threads in my lifetime of growth and experience. In my formative years, I was an Eagle Scout and Altar Server. At West Point and in the Army, I learned the meaning of teamwork, sacrifice and love of our Nation. Today, at Seton Hall University, I am building my academic tools and professional networks that will span the globe in order to one day be at the diplomatic table and make real policies — policies that people can believe in and defend.

Presently my career goal is to seek ways to foster and create sustainable, long-term development in emerging areas. This ambition is one that I developed after finding my own strengths and weaknesses in leadership through experiences home and abroad. Although leadership has many characteristics, the Army has developed an acronym that I find to represent leadership well: (LDRSHIP) Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. I believe the two most important traits of these values are selfless service and loyalty.

These two traits can be practiced by anyone and were best exemplified by Christ. Selfless service of mankind and God is an incredible calling; one's vocation to serve God as He calls us is truly fulfilling. I have found great joy in the different ways I have been able to serve others. I am working now to continue to support others and gain skills so that I may remain focused on the service of others throughout my lifetime. In developing my long term goals, I

have wanted to help with sustainable development because it teaches others how to help one another and sustain entire civilizations.

Loyalty is an essential part of work and leadership because it is commitment to your team and your goals. So many parts of successful teamwork depend on the loyalty within the group. It builds rapport, cohesion, trust, respect, and a confidence in each individual's efforts. I intend to remain loyal to God, my country, and people's needs as I continue my career. I appreciate the difficulties in decision making with competing needs, but know through careful consideration, cost benefit analysis, and faith, that I will be able to make good decisions.

I have enjoyed becoming active in the Seton Hall community through service leadership in the Graduate Diplomacy Council, the United Nations, and an incredible parish where I live in Hoboken. Father Mike, pastor of St. Francis, "The Little Church with the Big Heart," has taught me through my participation in their toy drives, "souper" bowl events and food drives for the homeless, how I can give to others and gain a new set of skills.

Throughout my life and career, I have learned parts of various languages and customs that need to be respected in order to make a person welcome. I have witnessed cultures that are struggling to survive under political and religious strife in Albania and Northern Ireland. I have been involved with negotiations in Iraq, and seen firsthand in Kosovo how difficult it is to win the hearts and minds of troubled peoples. I have personally felt the impact of lives lost due to combat, accidents, and natural disasters in Korea, Iraq, and at home. Through it all, God has guided me in prayer and counseled me through others. His love and leadership has allowed me to achieve so much. I intend to learn and share with other colleagues how to achieve and successfully lead change-generating sustainable development.