

Comet Alumni Spotlight

Michael Harayda Class of 2005



Educational Background:

Hello Comets! I was blessed to graduate from St. Thomas School in 2005 and attended Richwoods High School where I graduated in 2009. I was accepted into The Citadel Military College of South Carolina 5th Battalion, Papa Company where I majored in Political Science with a focus in International Relations.

Military Background: In 2012 I was selected as a United States Army Field Artillery Officer Candidate. I was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 2013 and have since served combat tours in Afghanistan as a "Guardian Angel" Contractor Protection Platoon Leader and in Iraq as a Battalion Fire Support Officer and Strike Director working towards the defeat of ISIS in western Iraq and Syria.

I served as Battery Commander of Bravo Battery, Second Battalion, Eighth Field Artillery Regiment from 2020 to 2021. Today, I serve as a Future Operations Planner in the United States Army Pacific Headquarters stationed at beautiful Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

In 2023, I was privileged and honored to be selected as one of less than four hundred United States Army Space Operations Officers.

Recent Achievements:

On 8 March 2024 I graduated from the United States Army Space Operations Officer Qualification Course (SOOQC).

Family: I have an incredible Mother and Father who have inspired, and loved me. Two Brothers who are far more intelligent than I could ever hope to be, and a Wife who has supported me, loved me, and has endured more than her fair share of deployments, training exercises, and hardship, but still shows me how to be a better person every day.

Favorite Experience as a St. Thomas Comet: More than anything, I remember the friends that I made during the 9 years of my life spent at St. Thomas.

St. Thomas Teacher who made an impact on you: I will never forget Mrs. Miller who had the highest standards for each of her students (and tolerated absolutely no nonsense whatsoever as I discovered on several occasions) but who loved each and every one of us and supported us in everything we did.

Piece of advice for current Comets: One day you will graduate from St. Thomas. You may end up far away, or right here close to home. No matter what you do in your life, always remember that the greatest people serve others first. Do the right thing, especially when no one is watching.