

# SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT

## CPT Maureen Minder

**TITLE:** Logistics Modernization Program (LMP) Assistant Product Manager (APdM) for Total Package Fielding (TPF)

**HOW LONG AT PEO EIS:** 18 months

**AWARDS / EDUCATION / OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS TO NOTE:** Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Retail and Business Management from the University of South Carolina



### 1. HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU SERVED?

I have been serving for 18 years.

### 2. WHAT LED YOU TO A CAREER WITH THE ARMY?

I grew up in a very small town and always knew I wanted to travel the world and make a difference. At 18-years-old, I joined the Army National Guard in order to start my adventure. From my time in the National Guard, I fell in love with the military and went active duty, which led me to my desire to become an officer and to lead Soldiers. I left active duty to join the Reserves in order to obtain my college degrees and pursue my goal of becoming an officer. I attended the University of South Carolina, obtained my commission, and returned to active duty.

### 3. WHO WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR MENTOR AND WHY?

I've been fortunate to have many great mentors in my career, from my Drill Sergeants while I was a private in basic training to Generals while I was Aide-de-Camp. But my favorite mentor and motivator in my life is my son. I continue to challenge myself to set an honorable example for him as a parent, as a person, and as a leader. He often says to me, "Mommy, you work hard and take care of everyone. You are a good Soldier" and "God will be with you and your Soldiers today." You can't go wrong with that kind of guidance and wisdom.

### 4. HOW MANY PLACES HAVE YOU LIVED AND WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE?

Nine. Although not an Army duty station, my all-time favorite place to live was Paris, France, where I studied during my college years. Of my Army locations, Fort Eustis, VA was my favorite. It was first Army assignment, which gives it special meaning to me. Add to that the people I met and trained with, the location (the beach!), and all its history makes it my favorite duty station.

### 5. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE STORY OF YOUR MILITARY CAREER?

All of the kids I've met make up the most wonderful stories of my career. When I was enlisted and deployed to Iraq, my Soldiers and I were able to spend time with local children, showing them our uniforms, explaining our gear, and giving them food and candy from a country they only heard about. Those kids saw the worst of what war could bring. I'm honored that I was able to interact with them and let them see firsthand the good that U.S. Soldiers bring through our presence and protection. More recently, I've become involved with the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) at Woodbridge Senior High School in Woodbridge, VA. Being a part of their stories inspires me to do more and be better so that I have something new and amazing to tell them each time I visit. Part of my story is investing in our country's future leaders and it's an amazing opportunity I enjoy very much.

### 6. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ARMY TRADITION?

Taps. It reminds me of why I joined the Army. It humbles me that my comrades sacrificed their own lives for my freedom. And it grounds me by taking a few solemn moments of reflection while those simple notes play to remember why we Soldiers do what we do every day in service to our country.