

# VETERANS IN THE PEO EIS WORKFORCE SPOTLIGHT

## Mr. Tom Dunaway

**TITLE:** Europe Director, Product Manager Power Projection Enablers (P2E)

**HOW LONG AT PEO EIS:** Six years

**AWARDS / EDUCATION / OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS TO NOTE:** *Awards:* Bronze Star Medal (Operation Iraqi Freedom); Commanders Award for Civilian Service *Education:* United States Military Academy at West Point (B.S., Systems Engineering; 2001); California University of Pennsylvania (Sports Management; 2009) *Other Achievements:* DAU Level 3, Project Management; Army Acquisition Corps Member



### 1. WHAT WAS YOUR MILITARY BRANCH AND HOW MANY YEARS DID YOU SERVE?

I served as a Field Artillery Officer for five years.

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

I didn't even consider the military until I was recruited to play basketball at West Point. One of my goals was to play at the Division 1 level and as I quickly learned on my visit, West Point is one of the premiere academic and leadership institutions in the world. Honestly, I didn't think much about the military aspect of it until I showed up at R-Day. I quickly learned what I had gotten myself into.

### 3. HOW DOES YOUR CURRENT POSITION IMPACT THE SOLDIER?

I am fortunate to work in an area of the world where my stakeholders are heavily engaged in real world missions; thus, what my team accomplishes each day has a direct, positive impact on Soldiers!

### 4. WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE ACTIVE DUTY STATION AND WHY?

My favorite active duty station was Fort Sill, Ok, because I was a member of one of the greatest field artillery units in the history of the Army- the 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery Regiment- and it's of because this collection of leaders and soldiers that I deployed to Iraq with some of the best that I have ever met.

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

I was a Platoon Leader in 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery during OIF in 2003. At the conclusion of combat operations, my Battalion re-deployed to a camp in Kuwait and awaited orders to return home. Since we had just completed a grueling few months in which we wore full combat gear on a daily basis, our Battalion Commander (BC), LTC Sprayberry, allowed us to wear only our uniforms with soft caps. At the time, an Army Reserve unit commander was the camp mayor, so he tried to force our entire Battalion to wear full combat gear. When LTC Sprayberry refused, the camp mayor ordered the mess hall staff to stop serving us food. When we showed up for dinner later that evening only to find that no one would serve us, the BC, the BC Sergeant Major, and the Battalion Executive Officer immediately marched to the mess hall, jumped behind the serving line, and served dinner to our entire unit.

### 6. WHAT DOES BEING A VETERAN MEAN TO YOU?

I am not certain that it is possible to adequately express the importance of what being a veteran means to me. Very few people are willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice, so I cannot put into words how proud and thankful I am for the opportunity to have served our country. I am part of an elite group and no one can ever take that away from me!