

# SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT

## LTC Keith G. Harley

**TITLE:** Product Manager, AcqBusiness (PM AcqBusiness)

**HOW LONG AT PEO EIS:** Since 2012

**AWARDS / EDUCATION / OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS TO NOTE:** Received on behalf of Medical Communications for Combat Casualty Care (MC4) -- 2014 AMSUS Operational Medicine Award and American Council for Technology (ACT) and the Industry Advisory Council (IAC) Excellence in Health IT Award.



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

I have been serving for over 21 years.

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

I grew up in a military family, so joining felt like the natural thing to do and it was something that I wanted to do. However, I didn't join until I was in college. I knew that I wanted to be a military officer, so while I was in college I decided to enlist to see how my military career would develop.

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

My goal is to always surround myself with positive, smart people. If I had to name just one mentor, I would say it's COL (R) Chuck "Rock Steady" Dease. I served as an Assistant Product Manager for Route Clearance Vehicles under his leadership.

The reach of his team was vast; it stretched from the PM shop to the PEO Headquarters; from our functional location to the DA staff, and to our customers in the field -- combat engineers conducting route clearance operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

COL Dease always sought to find innovative ways to get our equipment to Soldiers and was all about building lasting relationships that helped his team to form a strong bond.

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

Since joining the Army I have had nine different duty station assignments, including Fort Polk, Louisiana, Fort Huachuca, Arizona, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland and Fort Hood, Texas. Fort Hood was my favorite because I was able to live with some extended family and there was an attitude of "work hard, play hard."

I attribute much of the person I am today to the people I worked for while stationed at Fort Hood, many of whom went on to more senior positions within the Army; one even became a Congressman. These trailblazers showed me how important it is for a leader to create a work environment in which people feel like they want to come to work every day: Mission First, People Always.

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

While deployed in Iraq as a Military Intelligence Company Commander, I got to plan and execute the first tactical real world use of an electronic warfare system that was relatively new to the Army. My battalion had minimal success until we used this technology and new tactics. Once we employed this new strategy, the brigade was able to capture the insurgents and collected significant intelligence that had a direct, positive impact our unit's force protection.

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

One of my favorite Army tradition is singing the Army Song. Every word is true and resonates with me deeply. Being part of a team. Achieving the mission. Always moving forward.