

## Curriculum Vita For:

**Joseph Kopser**, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army

Professor of Military Science, Department of Military Science, UT-Austin

Education: MA, Public Administration, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University  
BS Aerospace Engineering, U.S. Military Academy

Military and Research Experience: Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Kopser has been an officer in the U.S. Army for 18 years. In his previous job, he worked for Army Chief of Staff GEN George W. Casey, Jr. where he worked as a strategist in Strategic Communications. He worked with speechwriters, public affairs, Congressional relations, and executive outreach. Previous to that, he worked with the Army's Future Combat Systems program after he returned from Iraq where he served as a Battalion Executive Officer in 2-7 CAV during 14 months of operations in Mosul, Iraq. Previous to the deployment to Iraq, he was the Squadron Operations Officer (S3) responsible for training and operations of a Squadron as it stood up from scratch as a new Army unit at Fort Bliss, Texas. Prior to his last three years in an operational unit, he served as an Associate Professor of American Politics. During that time, Joseph continued to pursue an interest into the research and concepts of mentorship and developmental networks in society. He has explored both academically and professionally the impact of Social Capital and interconnectedness of people. Currently, he studying the transition from direct to indirect leadership as well as the implications of our National Energy Policy on our National Security Policy.

### Recent Publications and Presentations

Kopser, J. "Military Service and the Larger Field of Civic Engagement," Six Practitioners' Perspectives on Building Civic Engagement, The Grantmaker Forum on Community and National Service, October 2003

Kopser, J. "Mentorship in the Military: Not Everybody Gets It," Military Review Magazine, Vol. 82, No. 6, (November- December 2002)

### Demonstrated Area of Excellence:

#### (1) Teaching:

- Taught for three years in the Department of Social Sciences, USMA, West Point New York
  - American Politics
  - The American Presidency
  - Political Participation
- Certified by the Dean as an Associate Professor
- Served as Course Director of SS466: Political Participation
- Volunteered as an instructor of Professional Military Ethics Education.
- Highlights of his teaching experience include:
  - Served as Course Director and Instructor of SS468: Political Participation. The following contributions cover the planning, preparation, and execution of the class:

In the Spring of 2004, the class he designed:

- Revamped the course syllabus and quadrupled enrollment from 7 to 27 cadets
- Conducted incident free trip to the New Hampshire Primary with all cadets
- Developed a full-scale Website AAR to capture all of the Cadets experiences
- Conducted Real-time Hands-on learning off-post with 7 different Civic Organizations
- Executed, videotaped, and chronicled close-out briefings with Actual leadership of civic groups before Spring Break
- Served as “political consultant” for two actual candidates for office

In Spring of 2005, the class he designed:

- Conducted incident free trip to the Washington DC with all cadets
  - Conducted Real-time Hands-on learning with a local grassroots organization and allowed them to study it **IN PERSON** from every level from Town Hall to Capital Hill
  - Cadets served as “political consultant” for a local grassroots organization
  - Invited as a guest speaker the USAID Deputy Director of Reconstruction Efforts, the principal advisor to the Iraqi elections, and MG Peter Chiarelli, Commanding General of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division.
- Assisted as a panel member of an Academy-wide project to develop a new class at West Point known as “Winning the Peace.” In addition, he guest lectured 2 Lessons of the Department’s new “Winning the Peace” course. In doing so, he taught lessons on Local Governance and Civic Skills.
  - Volunteered as a faculty Officer Representative for a experimental Sosh program called, “We The People” (WTP). Started by a plebe, WTP seeked to link high school students and cadets with a passion for public service to instill a high sense of civic engagement.

(2) Scholarship:

- Presented to University of California- Santa Barbara on the concepts of Iraqi development and the creation of new government system to help build the peace after major combat operations
- Panel presentation of his Mentorship research at the International Conference on Civic Education Research in 2003
- Draper Award Winner and Top Graduate of the Armor Officer Advanced Course, Fort Knox
- Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, United States Military Academy
- Published a 2 part serial of his experiences in Iraq from the perspective of a staff officer on loan from USMA. Both articles appeared in the AOG Assembly magazine.
  - “Summer in Baghdad: Part I” Assembly Magazine, NOV/DEC 2004, West Point, NY
  - “Summer in Baghdad: Part II” Assembly Magazine, JAN/FEB 2005, West Point, NY
- Commitment to scholarship excellence chronicled in magazine article showcasing his academic accolades 1993 as a cadet and then again in 2004 as an instructor.
  - Speigel, T. “Projects Day: Members of the Class of 2004 Throw Their Hats into the Ring” Assembly Magazine, JUL/AUG 2004, West Point, NY
- Served as the primary project officer in the development of USMA’s W.E.S.T. (Web Enabled Selection and Tracking) Personnel Recruiting system used by several departments at West Point

### (3) Leader Development:

- Continues to serve as a USMA Admissions Field Force Volunteer recruiting soldiers and high school students for a future at West Point.
- Served as a formal cadet mentor and shared his home and family as an example of a lifetime of service for 4 cadets during his three years teaching.
- Actively working as a formal mentor for several officers in the Squadron as well as 10 former cadets now serving as platoon leaders from Year Groups 2003 through 2005.
- Recognized as the “Most Spirited Member of the USMA Staff and Faculty” for the 2004 football season. Awarded a sideline pass to join the team for Army-Navy 2004.
- As a member of Social Sciences, he worked every semester with BS&L to serve as a volunteer for the PL300 Counseling Sessions with cadets serving as future platoon leaders.
- Volunteered as an Armor Branch Mentor with approximately 8 First Class Cadets who chose Armor as their branch.
- Served as a Senior Leader Development Program for 3 cadets facing serious disciplinary action. Each selected him as their mentor to help set them back on the right track.
- Served as a self appointed liaison between USMA and the Sarasota Military Academy (SMA). SMA is the nations first, public charter high school, day time military academy.
- Took great pride as a Cavalry officer exposing cadets to the pomp, traditions, and panache of the Cavalry psyche.
- Served as a panel member in the 2004 and 2005 Center for the Study of the Presidency search committee. Selected two cadets to represent West Point at conference in Washington.

### (4) Service:

- Selected as a 2010 Regional Finalist in the White House Fellowship program.
- The key note speaker at the 2010 Sarasota Military Academy Graduation Exercises.
- As a Squadron XO, recognized by the Squadron Trainer at the NTC as having produced the best, initial OPORD/ OPORD brief of any new Squadron staff to attend NTC LTP in his three year tenure.
- Hand picked by the Brigade Commander to participate on a committee he directed to develop the Brigade’s Lines of Operations for Iraq.
- Volunteered for service in Baghdad, Iraq during his 2004 summer break with the Joint Forces Command to help plan and organize the January 2005 elections.
- Participated weekly in BS&L’s “Field Grade University” in his free time to prepare for and discuss the challenges and being a BN S-3/XO.
- Continued to foster strong ties with the Institute of Politics at Harvard University and the Sosh Department.
- Invited to serve as an introductory speaker at the conference on Latino Communications at the United Nations in spring of 2005.
- Served as Senior Personnel Officer for the Department of Social Sciences. He was responsible for 4 cohorts of officers numbering nearly 50 people at a time. In his last year, the Department hired one of the most diverse and talented group in recent years. COL Parker commented that it was the smoothest in 11 years.
- Donated his car to the Director of Cadet Activities and turned it into an Official Army Spirit Car.
- Physically, he continues to push to maintain a high level of physical fitness, consistently score 290 and above.
- Participated in the Sosh intramural Ultimate Frisbee, Basketball, Volleyball, and Softball seasons. Member of the 2004 Post Champion Ultimate Frisbee team.

- Volunteered in 2004 to serve as the Chairman of his high school Fifteen Year Reunion Committee.
- Volunteered to serve as the Chairman of my Kennedy School of Government MPA2 Five Year Reunion Committee.
- Volunteered to serve as a member of my USMA Class of '93 Ten Year Reunion Committee.
- Volunteered to serve as the Social Sciences POC for all volunteers at the 2004 and 2005 Officer Wives Club Fund Raiser.