



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
199TH INFANTRY BRIGADE
6980 DIXIE ROAD, BUILDING 2652
FORT BENNING, GA 31905

July 19, 2014

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Second Lieutenant Tom Schafer

Lieutenant General Robert L. Caslen
Superintendent, United States Military Academy
West Point, NY 10996-5000

Dear General Caslen,

I would like to share a few words about Tom Schafer, my brother and friend. As his brother, I've had the unique opportunity to watch Tom transition from sibling rivalry into a military officer.

I commissioned from West Point in 2010 as an Infantryman. I graduated from Ranger School in 2011, following in the footsteps of my grandfather, Ranger class of 1954, and my father, an honor graduate for the Ranger class of 1992. I then joined the 1-505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division and deployed as a heavy weapons platoon leader. During my time in 1-505PIR, I also served as rifle platoon leader, company executive officer, battalion S4 OIC and earned my senior parachutist badge.

Tom and I competed in everything imaginable during our childhood. As the oldest sibling, I'm simultaneously disappointed and excited when one of my younger siblings challenges and bests me. I joined the high-school track team and ran long distance events. Naturally, Tom joined both the cross country team and the track team. I ran the mile in 5:15; Tom ran the mile in 4:24. I played ultimate Frisbee as an intramural and won our regimental championship; Tom played on the West Point club ultimate Frisbee team and won a regional tournament at West Point. I placed first in our battalion's 12 mile Expert Infantryman Badge ruck march. Well, Tom hasn't bested my ruck march record, but I fear it's only a matter of time.

The same drive and motivation inherent in our family courses through Tom's veins. He possesses the hallmarks of future Airborne Ranger, moving further, faster and fighting harder at every turn. I ask that you allow Tom to show the Army the elite Soldier he is and always has been.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph P. Schafer".

Joseph P. Schafer
Captain, U.S. Army
Maneuver Captain's Career
Course Student