**Values are what guide you in your life and work. What values are important to you and how have they influenced you? (450 words)**

My father’s mantra frequently echoes in my head: “Mission First, Team Always.” He has said it countless times since my childhood. Achieving results *while* supporting those around me matters most. Ultimately, I adopted “Mission First, Team Always” as the foundation of my own leadership philosophy. But when my US Army air defense unit trained for our certifications in South Korea, my commitment to this philosophy was tested.

Kellogg prides itself on cultivating brave leaders who create lasting value. Every student and alumni to whom I spoke possesses a “pay it forward” attitude imperative to building cohesive teams. It is apparent that Kellogg cultivates brave, *humble* leaders who create lasting value, similar to the balance I strive to maintain between “the Mission” and “the Team.”

Days before our unit certification, my top Soldier was in Texas with his young family. His back-up, a brand-new Soldier, struggled to replace him. Our Commander refused to consider alternative ways to ensure the unit certified; he ordered me to return my Soldier to Korea. It was disheartening to discover my ethos was not shared by all fellow Army leaders. It felt like I was at the center of a Venn diagram: Mission Leaders *or* People Leaders. Though intimidated by the consequences of disobeying orders, I was determined to both keep my Soldier with his family *and* to pass the certification. After 72 hours of accelerated instruction and drills, our back-up crew attained a proficiency normally reached after 30 days. As a result, our unit fully certified and my Soldier’s family time continued uninterrupted.

In South Korea, my team provided safety to the community in case of missile attacks–a benefit only felt in the worst of circumstances. I want to continue creating benefits for others, but in a more tangible, everyday form. After Kellogg, I aspire to lead a product division at a socially-conscious company that provides customers and communities with innovative, life-changing products and experiences.

Kellogg is an ideal environment in which to develop a balanced approach of empathetic leadership. While at Kellogg, classes like *Personal Leadership Insights* will help me sharpen my ability to lead teams with emotional intelligence. In Professor Kashner’s *Social Innovation: Designing for Change*, I will use my Army experience to collaborate with diverse groups and design impactful products for the community*.* Beyond the classroom, I am eager to join the Veteran’s Association and Net Impact to strengthen our veteran community and learn how to lead organizations responsibly.

         My time in Korea amplified the importance of balancing “Mission First” and “Team Always,” because leaning too heavily on either undermines organizations. Kellogg develops its students to be brave, humble leaders. I am excited to join a community that shares my values.