



West Point Biography

Colonel James G. Riely

Cadet Activities Directorate



Colonel Riely is originally from Croton, New York, and is a graduate of Archbishop Stepinac High School in White Plains, New York. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1996 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Engineer Regiment.

After graduating from the Engineer Officer Basic Course, Colonel Riely served as a Platoon Leader and Company Executive Officer in the 92nd and 11th Engineer Battalions, Fort Stewart, Georgia. Following the Engineer Officer Advanced Course, Colonel Riely was assigned to Joint Task Force-Bravo (JTF-B), Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, Central America, serving as the USACE Chief Construction Project Officer for JTF-Bravo's Southern Joint Operations Area (Honduras, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua). After his tour in Central America, he served as the Battalion Maintenance Officer and as the Commander of Alpha Company in the 4th Engineer Battalion at Fort Carson, Colorado, and during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF-1). Following company command, Colonel Riely served as a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Battalion Executive Officer and Assistant Professor of Military Science. After schooling at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, he was assigned as a G-5 Planner with the 3rd Infantry Division in Iraq and at Fort Stewart. He then served as S-3 (Operations and Training Officer) of the Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart. He was next assigned as the Department Chair and Professor of Military Science of the Loyola-Towson University Army ROTC Battalion, Baltimore, Maryland.

Colonel Riely then had the honor of serving as commander of the 40th Engineer Battalion in 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, Texas. During the first year of this command, the battalion converted from a Brigade Special Troops Battalion into the 40th Engineer Battalion and reintroduced the proud lineage of the 40th Engineer Battering Rams into the Brigade Combat Team formation. Following battalion command, Colonel Riely served as the Deputy Director of the Department of Military Instruction at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point until February 2019.

Colonel Riely holds a Master's in Engineering Management from the University of Missouri-Rolla; a Master's in Political Geography from Rutgers University; and a Master's in Military Arts & Science from the Army's School of Advanced Military Studies.

Colonel Riely's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and Joint Service Commendation Medal. He is authorized to wear the Combat Action, Air Assault, and Airborne Badges.