

INDUCTEE

Richard Richkowski

Graduated. . . . 1988
Married. Jennifer Davis
Children Adrienna 12, Tanner 12, Noah 9, Anna 1
Resides. Canton, Ohio

When Richard came to Gahanna Lincoln High School in the tenth grade he wasted no time in making his impact in athletics, academics, and service activities. His moral character and courage of conviction was evident whether he was leading the school chapter of Youth to Youth and speaking to the entire student about the merits of a drug-free life, meeting the challenges of a varsity lineman every week on the football field, or immersing himself in academic excellence. His desire to be challenged academically was apparent in his achievements in the classroom, as he excelled in advanced placements and other college preparatory classes resulting in his selection to West Point Academy, evidently an "easy choice" for those who were looking for candidates.

His determination and dedication to duty followed him through West Point and on into his military career. During his senior year at West Point, he was captain of the undefeated Army Lightweight Football Team and was one of four Regimental Commanders each responsible for approximately 1000 cadets. He was commissioned in 1992, graduating in the top 10 percent of his class. For the next twelve years he served stateside and in combat areas including Kuwait, Korea, and Iraq in Armored Cavalry Operations as well as planning and logistics roles.

In 2000, after he received his Master of Science in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the Ohio State University, he was back at West Point as a Course Director and Instructor in the Department of Systems Engineering where he was instrumental in the course development for the Engineering Management Program identified as "best in the country" by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. He also served as the Offensive Line Coach for another generation of Army Lightweight Football Players. Many of his students and players are currently serving in combat operations, today.

In 2003 his military responsibilities return to the field where, during the initial stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he served as one of the US Army Fifth Corps Battle Captains assisting in the coordination of the logistical support of four army divisions conducting ground combat operations.

From 2002 to 2004, Major Richkowski was the Operations Officer for the Kent State University Army ROTC Program, which included Youngstown State University and Mount Union College. Over the three campuses, he supervised 12 instructors and 150 cadets. During this time Richkowski founded a commercial leader development program for those in the private sector. This program, High Impact Leadership Lab, or HILL, was developed to apply active, immersion training techniques for first line supervisors, managers, educators and coaches.

He entered the private sector in 2004 as the production coordinator for Colfor Manufacturing, part of American Axle Manufacturing, a company responsible for manufacturing ground-breaking automotive component for General Motors innovative 6 speed transmission. During this period, his program led to the creation of 200 new manufacturing jobs for Ohio. He has since become the Operations and Lean Manufacturing Leader for Altivity Packaging in New Philadelphia, Ohio.

He lives in Canton, Ohio with his wife and children and enjoys spending time with them orchestrating numerous family events and family road trips. Richard has been a leader in all he has chosen to do. A former teacher Phil Koppel said, "I have taught and coached for almost 40 years, and I have encountered many fine people. Richard Richkowski is one of those very special persons whom we occasionally have the opportunity to meet."