

# KAYLA G. HODGES

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Former U.S. Army officer offering eight years of leadership experience in a dynamic, demanding environment transitioning to environmental management and sustainable community development. Seeking to leverage my professional background and over a year of experience on five different environmental and community development projects to drive outcomes that enhance local communities' capacity for stewardship, governance, and coexistence.

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## SKILLS AND EXPERTISE

- Leadership and Supervisory Experience
  - Operations and Project Management
  - Law Enforcement Training
  - Web Design and Digital Content Strategy
  - Collaboration and Team-Building
  - Project Development and Implementation
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## CAREER SUMMARY

### INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

Volunteer Positions: July 2021 – Current

- **Project Development Manager** volunteer with **SFW Conservation**, a U.S. biodiversity conservation nonprofit based in South Africa addressing the poaching crisis by bridging wildlife ranger training gaps and supporting community education and empowerment projects. Focused on partnerships and project development, strategic business planning, and marketing and digital content strategy.
- **Research Assistant** intern with **Save the Elephants (STE)**, a UK charity organization based in Kenya. Assigned to the Elephants and Bees Project, a human-elephant coexistence project that aims to use beehive fences, honey production, and community education as strategies for mitigating human-elephant conflict in Kenya and other African countries. Responsibilities included beehive fence monitoring; primary school environmental education; veterinarian assistant; beehive maintenance; elephant tracking and monitoring; and contributions to human-elephant coexistence publications.
- **Field Technician** volunteer for the **Belize Jaguar Project**, the largest and longest-running camera trapping project in the world. Collected relevant wildlife camera trap data related to species distribution, population size, density, survival, and influence of habitat and human disturbance for jaguars, ocelots, and pumas.
- **Research Assistant** intern with **Centro Rescate de Especies Marinas Amenazadas (CREMA)**, a Costa Rican marine conservation nonprofit. Responsibilities included sea turtle hatchery maintenance and management, hatchling release and data collection, sea turtle tagging and data collection, nightly beach surveys, community projects, and English classes.
- **Biology Technician, Wildland Firefighter** intern for the Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), **Department of Fish and Wildlife**. Field leader for Western Toad and Western Bluebird surveys. Earned Type 2 Wildland Firefighter certification and conducted over ten prescribed burns on federal military land for ecological and habitat restoration purposes. Surveyed, mapped, and physically prepared tree snags, personnel hazards, and critical habitats within burn units prior to prescribed fires. Facilitated prairie habitat restoration through prescribed burning and non-native plant removal and seed collection—ultimately supporting an endangered butterfly reintroduction site and native prairie plant propagation.

### 42D MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE – 571ST MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

Company Commander: October 2018 – March 2020

- Led, managed, and provided legal, health, wellness, administrative oversight for a rapidly deployable military police company consisting of 163 soldiers and officers and a fleet of over 50 tactical vehicles and associated equipment.
- Managed a \$100,000 annual budget while overseeing (and taking legal responsibility for) approximately \$33 million worth of military equipment and supplies; resulted in 100% accountability of all equipment.
- Successfully deployed and transported over 100 personnel, 30 tactical vehicles, weapons, and sensitive equipment to joint field exercises across the country at the National Training Center, Yakima Training Center, and the Joint Readiness Training Center, earning accolades from senior leaders.
- Trained and supervised over 115 military police soldiers to conduct force protection and daily law enforcement operations on Joint Base Lewis-McChord with a population of over 105,000 soldiers, civilians, and family members.

### 42D MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE – 504TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION

Battalion Operations Officer: July 2017 – October 2018

- Served as the operations manager for a military police battalion totaling over 640 personnel, including four military police companies, a military working dog detachment, and a headquarters detachment. Oversaw the receipt, tracking, planning, coordination, and execution of training and training readiness for the organization.

- Coordinated cooperative training operations with the Japanese Self-Defense Forces; resulted in a successful bilateral training event in which the entire battalion leadership unit (approximately 40 personnel) traveled to Camp Sendai, Japan and participated in a three-week exercise.
- Oversaw the planning and execution of a military police training event with the Canadian Army—coordinated for the reception, integration, billeting, food, and training resources and facilities for over 40 Canadian soldiers hosted on JBLM.
- Increased the battalion's overall law enforcement proficiency through an overhaul of the police academy training; reviewed and improved curriculum, recruited and vetted new instructors, and revamped training facilities and resources. Resulted in a 30% reduction of training hours and a 20% cumulative increase in annual graduate output.
- Preserved organizational continuity during a tumultuous period of significant personnel turnover (over 80% of staff leaders); mentored and coached new officers through multiple events including large-scale planning conferences and external evaluations assessing HR, intelligence, medical, logistical, and IT capabilities.

## **716TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION – 218TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY**

### **Company Executive Officer: March 2015 – November 2015**

- Managed the unit's financial expenditures with a budget of over \$550,000; coordinated for the forecasting, ordering, and distribution of required military supplies to subordinate units within the company.
- Revitalized the company's logistical efforts with respect to tracking, inventorying, transporting (via rail and semi-truck), purchasing, and maintaining over \$33 million of unit equipment to include weapons, rolling stock, medical supplies, and law enforcement gear.

## **716TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION – 194TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY**

### **Platoon Leader: July 2013 – February 2015**

- Deployed a platoon of 42 military police personnel, 14 tactical vehicles, and associated equipment to Monrovia, Liberia in support of Operation United Assistance, a humanitarian response mission to the 2015 Ebola Virus Disease crisis.
- Collaborated with multinational UN forces, NGOs, and Liberian National Police to manage security operations for testing laboratories and Ebolavirus treatment facilities, allowing the safe and secure training of over 650 Liberian health workers.

## **EDUCATION/CERTIFICATIONS**

- **United States Military Academy** - West Point, NY: 2008-2012  
Graduated with honors: B.S. in International Relations, Environmental Engineering Track
- **Air Assault School** – Fort Campbell, KY: 2013  
Ten-day course designed to prepare soldiers for insertion, evacuation, and pathfinder missions that call for the use of multipurpose transportation and assault helicopters.
- **Military Police Captains Career Course** - Fort Leonard Wood, MO: 2016  
Honor Graduate, top student in class academically and physically
- **Type 2 Wildland Firefighter Certification** - Tacoma, WA: 2020  
Conducted over ten prescribed burns on federal lands in support of ecological and conservation objectives
- **Incident Command System Certificates** - Tacoma, WA: 2020  
Nationally accredited FEMA courses: 100, 200, 700

## **RECOGNITIONS**

- 2020: Meritorious Service Medal for recognition of service during company command.
- 2019: Awarded an Army Commendation Medal as the highest performing commander during field training exercise.
- 2018: Selected over 100 other captains as the First Corps General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Awardee.

## **REFERENCES**

- Dr. Lucy King - Head of Human-Elephant Co-Existence Program, Save the Elephants  
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- Mr. Steve Leonard - Senior Assistant Dean / Professor of the Practice, University of Kansas School of Business  
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