



Deirdre P. Dixon '84

Deirdre served 22 years on active duty. Commissioned in the Quartermaster Corps, Deirdre was an Airborne Rigger and was stationed with the 82nd Airborne Division. Her next assignment saw her in Saudi Arabia and Iraq for Operation Desert Storm with the 24th ID, for which she commanded an Ordnance company. After completing the Fuqua School of Business at Duke, she taught leadership at West Point and was involved with the cadet riding team. She then returned to Bragg as the XVIII Airborne Corps parachute officer and the XO of an Airborne Battalion. She retired in 2006 as the Professor of Military Science at the University of Tampa.

Deirdre transitioned to the civilian world in the Leadership Center of the University of Tampa and returned to school to earn her doctorate. Deirdre holds a Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University. Her area of research passion began while as an instructor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership. Her research topics include studying *in extremis* leadership and resilience, which includes examining military, law enforcement, and firefighters. She is currently researching Navy SEALs and teaching leadership to both graduate and undergraduate students.

Deirdre has served on the West Point Association of Graduates (WPAOG) Board of Directors for the past eight years, chairing both the 150th Celebration Committee, the Alumni Support Committee, and serving on other committees as needed. She has been involved on the board of West Point Societies for more than 20 years and is a past president of her local West Point Society. She began her involvement with WPAOG in 2003 and has been continuously involved since. She has served on the Academy Selection Board for Congresswoman Kathy Castor since 2007. Deirdre is a life member of the Army Athletic Association. She also served for four years on the local West Point Parents Club board, until her daughter graduated in the Class of 2020.

Deirdre has been involved in Tampa on several local nonprofit boards. For the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) she was the scholarship chair for 13 years, and she was the former chair of the Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee. She currently serves on the Tampa Theater Board as the head of the Strategy Committee and on the board of the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida.

Deirdre states: "I would like to give back and help all graduates to continue to be proud of West Point and our Association of Graduates. I have seen first-hand with my daughter the advantages cadets have with WPAOG funding. It is a privilege to be nominated again to the WPAOG Board of Directors, and I consider it an honor to serve." Deirdre and her husband, Paul, have three children: one graduated from West Point and serves with the 101st Abn Div, one is a professional ballet dancer in Texas, and the third attends Vanderbilt University. Deirdre and Paul reside in Tampa, Florida.