



4th Infantry Division



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Army Family heritage rich with service

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FORT CARSON, Colo. – When retired Lt. Col. Peter Kaley raised his right hand to be commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1956, he unknowingly began a Family tradition of Army service in the Field Artillery Branch.

Six members of the Kaley Family—retired Lt. Col. Peter Kaley and his sons, Kevin, Shawn, Richard, David and Michael Kaley, chose to be leaders and experts in the science of fire support systems; commissioned field artillery officers.

On Jan. 4, Peter and his wife, Maura, watched their fourth son, David, become the fifth Kaley promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

David is the only son still on active duty and currently serves as the battalion executive officer of 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

When asked what it meant to see his son promoted and gain another lieutenant colonel in the Kaley Family, Peter said, “It makes me proud, very proud.”

Although Peter served for 21 years and raised his boys around the military, he and his wife, Maura, said they never forced the military lifestyle on their children. Instead they let the boys choose for themselves.

“We heard about parents pushing their children into a certain career field, and we did not want to do that to our boys,” Peter said. “We wanted them to make their own decisions and they did.”

The Kaley boys agreed with their father’s sentiments.

“Our father never pushed us into the military,” said Lt. Col. Kevin Kaley, commander, 1st Battalion, 355th Regiment, 1st Brigade, 95th Division (Institutional Training), U.S. Army Reserve Command. “Both he and mom provided guidance, discipline and inspiration, and let us do our own thing,”

Lt. Col. Richard Kaley of the Rhode Island National Guard echoed his brother Kevin’s thoughts.

“Military life permeated everything ... our school, neighborhood, friends, shopping, etc.; and it is a good lifestyle, surrounded by people that share the same values of Family, service to nation, and physical fitness,” he said.

In addition to all of the Kaleys serving as artillery officers, they were also commissioned through ROTC programs at their respective colleges.

Lt. Col. Shawn Kaley, executive officer, 4th Cavalry Brigade, First Army Division East, Fort Knox, Ky., said after he decided to join the ROTC program at Syracuse University, the rest of his career choices fell into place.

Shawn also emphasized that his father did not influence his decision to serve.

“Dad never encouraged, nor coerced us into joining the Army,” he said.

Peter and Maura's youngest son, former Capt. Michael Kaley, now works for a major computer company in Austin, Texas.

The Kaleys do not believe they are part of any sort of Army legacy; however, they all say they are proud of what their Family has accomplished and continues to accomplish in service of their country.

"To have all of us become a part of that small percentage of Americans who serve our country is something special," David said. "I take pride in what my Family has done, and how we have been able to be part of a bigger team."

Returning with the brigade after completing a recent deployment to Iraq, Lt. Col. David Kaley is preparing to assume a new assignment as an instructor for a joint fires support team at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.



Pinning new rank.

FORT CARSON, Colo. – Maura Kaley, mother of Lt. Col. David Kaley, executive officer, 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, pins the rank of lieutenant colonel onto her son's beret during a promotion ceremony Jan. 4. David is the fifth member of the Kaley Family to achieve the rank of lieutenant colonel. Six members of the Kaley Family – retired Lt. Col. Peter Kaley and his sons, Kevin, Shawn, Richard, David and Michael Kaley served as commissioned field artillery officers, building more than five decades of service to the Army and the nation.

(photo courtesy of Leigh Anne Rambus)



Brothers in arms.

FORT CARSON, Colo. – The Kaley brothers, Lt. Col. Shawn Kaley, left, Capt. Michael Kaley, Lt. Col. Kevin Kaley, Lt. Col. Richard Kaley, and Lt. Col. David Kaley, pose for a holiday photo at Thanksgiving 1993 in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Along with their father, retired Lt. Col. Peter Kaley, they were all commissioned as artillery officers in the Army. The Kaley Family – retired Lt. Col. Peter Kaley and sons, served as commissioned field artillery officers, building more than five decades of service to the Army and the nation.

(Photo courtesy of Maura Kaley)