



Borgia Alumni Spotlight

BLAKE VAN LEER '14

What are you currently up to?

I am currently serving in the US Army where I have been stationed with B. TRP 7-17th H-ARS, IACB, ICD at Ft. Hood, Texas. I am a 15R which is an AH-64D/E repairer, they are known as the apache attack helicopter. I am a maintainer and crew chief on one of the twenty-four aircraft in the squadron. As crew chiefs, we have our own bird that we are fully responsible for when it comes to inspections and maintenance. We are currently training for deployment with field exercises and collective gunnery tables. These tables consist of many engagements where pilots maneuver and fire on targets with 30 mm rounds, rockets, and hellfire missiles. Day to day I ensure that my aircraft is fully mission capable and ready to go at a moment's notice.

Tell us about your family?

Being in this career I have two families, one at home and one here. My family at home is my biggest support system. I can always count on them when times are tough. Some people say that heroes are the ones who serve, but I say the heroes are the families that are left at home. They are the reason I have the motivation to keep going forward. My family here consists of the closet brothers and sisters that I serve with. You will never be able to find a bond like the one that we share anywhere in the world. I will go to all ends of the earth with them in any situation..



What was your favorite memory of high school?

I have so many great memories that I cannot pick one to be my favorite. I will always look back and remember the great times at Borgia. I am thankful for the experiences and memories made..

How has your Borgia education helped you in your life?

My Borgia education has helped me because of the challenges that I faced there. I have been able to be a forward thinker and prepare for the mission ahead. The staff at Borgia helped me learn life lessons and prepare me for the world. I have taken multiple views from many of my teachers and it has excelled my career. I truly appreciate everything that Borgia offered me while I was there and am thankful for everyone that impacted my life.

What is the great takeaway from your Borgia education?

The greatest thing I can take from my Borgia education is to never stop striving. During my time at Borgia I was taught to never give up and keep reaching for a higher standard. If you stop striving you will never get to where you want to be at the end.

What word or adjective would you use to describe Borgia?

The first word that comes to mind when I think of Borgia is family. It is one of the greatest organizations I have ever seen. There is always someone there to help and lend a hand. People in the Borgia community always show how family takes care of each other.