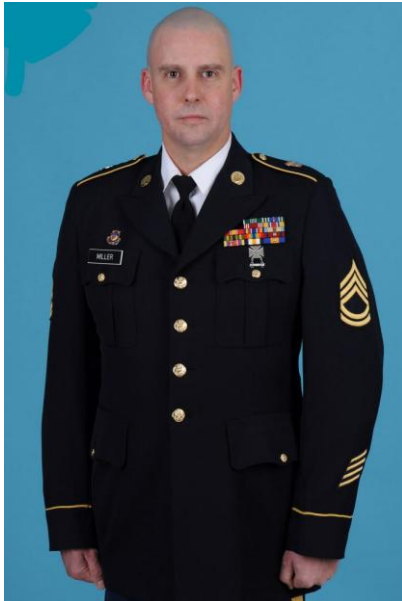


## Commencement Stories: David Miller, National Guard member balances school work and service to earn degree

Posted in *Featured, Students & Alumni* by *Simone Arrington* on June 2, 2016



*David Miller is a 2016 Excelsior College graduate of the [School of Liberal Arts](#). He has earned his Bachelor of Science degree in liberal arts. As a member of the [New York Army National Guard](#) since 2001, he is currently a Sergeant First Class serving as an Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) Operations Sergeant for the 204th Engineer Battalion. Miller became Active Duty for Operational Support in November of 2006 as a Career Counselor and then joined the AGR Program in May of 2008. He first learned about the College from other National Guard soldiers and began pursuing his degree in 2013. Miller grew up in California but has been living in Endicott, New*

*York since 1989, where he is continuing to further his education as an MBA student at Excelsior College. Miller will be attending the Commencement ceremony with his mother in July for his induction into [SALUTE](#), the Veterans National Honor Society for Excelsior College.*

### **Excelsior Life: When did you decide to go back to school? Why did you want to secure a degree?**

**Miller:** I joined the New York Army National Guard in August of 2001 with the intention of going back to school at that point. Unfortunately, the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> and subsequent military obligations put a damper on those plans. I did return to Broome Community College in 2003 and completed one semester to finish my associate degree. In 2013, I finally made the decision to return to school to earn my bachelor's degree with Excelsior College. My original goal was to finish before my 40th birthday in July of 2014. Due to an unexpected notification for deployment of my National Guard unit later that year (which was eventually cancelled) I had to put off my studies for a couple semesters. After the deployment was cancelled in late 2014, I returned to my studies, took extra courses, and finished my final course in December of 2015.

**Excelsior Life: Why did you chose to pursue a bachelor of science in liberal arts degree?**

**Miller:** I chose this mainly because it maximized my previous college credits as well as my military education and experience. Also, the liberal arts degree allowed me flexibility to take classes that interested me as well as giving me a broader knowledge in which to continue my education regardless of the field I choose to pursue.

**Excelsior Life: Do you think you've been able to apply what you've learned toward your career?**

**Miller:** I definitely think that I can apply what I have learned towards my career. The communication and critical thinking skills I have learned are readily applicable to every field of endeavor and invaluable skills to have in my tool box.

**Excelsior Life: What does having this degree mean to you?**

**Miller:** Completing my degree means so much to me. Setting a goal of completing my degree and actually doing it was a fantastic feeling and gave me an immense sense of pride and accomplishment.

To see the complete article go to:

<http://news.excelsior.edu/commencement-stories-david-miller-national-guard-member-balances-school-work-service-earn-degree/>

Thinking about completing your degree, go to the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation (RDVF) landing page to learn more at:

<http://www.excelsior.edu/web/partners/rainbow> or contact Judy Reed at: [jreed@excelsior.edu](mailto:jreed@excelsior.edu)