

# Jason Mello '98

ICHABOD WASHBURN YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Jason Mello, your impressive record in the United States Air Force as a leader and problem solver exemplifies the very best of a WPI education. We are proud to recognize you today for your remarkable professional accomplishments.

At your Commencement in 1998, you were commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and went on to become a program manager at the Air Force Research Laboratory, developing future space-based sensor technologies critical to our national defense. Since then, your Air Force career has followed a meteoric rise. You were hand-picked from more than 400 fellow officers to represent the commanding general as her protocol officer at the Electronic Systems Center at Hanscom AFB. You went on to lead at Patrick AFB, where you directed the safety and testing for the next generation of the \$1 billion range safety system. You were hand-picked for a program manager position for a multi-billion dollar satellite program, and chosen as one of 32 officers to attend the Air Force's premier Intern program. After leading the Air Force's Operation Centers program for unmanned aerial vehicles, you were selected as the director of operations for the Counterspace Analysis Squadron at the National Air and Space Intelligence Center.

You served as a White House Military Aide, successfully orchestrating more than 100 events at the White House for the President and First Family. Most recently, you were hand-picked to serve as the executive officer to the Vice Commander of the Air Force Materiel

Command, responsible for over 83,000 people, \$60 billion in research and development, acquisitions, testing and sustainment programs for the Air Force.

You also have taken seriously your duty to help cultivate future Air Force leaders. You spearheaded the first National Company Grade Officers' Council Professional Development Conference, which brought together representatives from more than 40 Air Force bases nationwide to focus on the core principles of the Air Force Company Grade Officers' Council—Professional Development, Community Service, and Esprit de Corps. Your com-

mitment to this program led the organization to include bases overseas in an expanded Air Force-wide annual conference that is recognized by the Air Force Chief of Staff every year. You were selected by your peers to lead the Air Force Company Grade Officers' Council as its chairman for more than two years. In this role, you laid the groundwork for an organization that has donated thousands of dollars to charity and directly improved the development of future Air Force leaders.

You hold a master's degree in civil/environmental engineering from the University of Massachusetts and in organizational management from George Washington University. You are now being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

Jason Mello, the impact you have made in your field is far-reaching. The WPI Alumni Association is honored to recognize these accomplishments with the Ichabod Washburn Young Alumni Award for Professional Achievement.

