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August 14, 2017

Col Deborah J. McDonald  
Director of Admissions  
United States Military Academy  
West Point, New York 10996

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for 1LT Raphael Waruinge, USMA '15

Colonel MacDonald, Greetings

It is my privilege to offer my strongest recommendation that you favorably consider 1LT Raphael Waruinge's application to join the Diversity Recruiting team in your office. He and I first met in October 2008. At that time, he was a community college student who also manned the counter at his parents' small coffee shop, [Cafe Kili](#), in Tampa Bay.

In late 2009, Captain Kirsten Rowe, Southeast Outreach, conducted a Minority Outreach Presentation (flyer attached) at Hillsborough Community College. Raphael was the beneficiary of the information presented and this first introduction to the US Military Academy. In May 2015, he invited me to administer his Oath as a Second Lieutenant upon his graduation from West Point.

I attended his graduation from the US Army Ranger School (September 2016) and visited him at his first troop duty assignment (Fort Bliss, February 2017). Raphael currently serves as the vice-president of the [MIMS Institute Fellows, Inc.](#) Perhaps, you will recall that he was on hand to present then-new cadet Kirsten Redmon our *Safiya and Daren Miller No Boundaries Scholarship* during the August 2013 Minority Outreach Picnic. Kirsten graduated and joined the 2LT ranks this past May.

Way back in 2009, West Point affirmed the qualities I recognized in Raphael to lead America's soldiers. It is again my hope that the Academy will embrace his immeasurable gifts for interesting others in the opportunities that he has experienced since the beginning of the second decade of the 21st century.

In His Service,  
*Jason D. Mims*  
Lieutenant Colonel  
US Army, Retired

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**Academic Excellence Matters**

...The fruit of LOVE is SERVICE. The fruit of SERVICE is PEACE.  
Mother Teresa's Business Card

**West Point Department of Admissions**  
**Minority Outreach Presentation at HCC**  
[kirsten.rowe@usma.edu](mailto:kirsten.rowe@usma.edu) 845-938-5742



**Dale Mabry Campus**  
Wednesday, Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 10am-Noon  
Rooms 108 and 110 by Cafeteria



**Brandon Campus**  
Thursday, Nov 5<sup>th</sup> 10am-Noon  
Room BACA 217N

**Admission Opportunities**

Fully paid education and training valued at \$450,000  
Monthly stipend of \$974  
Guaranteed Employment upon graduation  
Leadership position as a Commissioned Officer



