



Department of Chemistry & Life Science
United States Military Academy
West Point, NY 10996



Colonel F. John Burpo, Sc.D.

Professor, USMA

Head, Department of Chemistry & Life Science

United States Military Academy, West Point, NY 10996

Colonel Burpo is a Professor, United States Military Academy and currently serves as the Department Head for West Point's Department of Chemistry and Life Science. COL Burpo earned a B.S. in aerospace engineering from the United States Military Academy, a M.S. in chemical engineering from Stanford University, and a Sc.D. in biological engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Following his doctoral work, he conducted a dual post-doctoral fellowship in the Biomolecular Materials Laboratory and an Army War College fellowship in the Security Studies Program, both at MIT.

Military Experience. Colonel Burpo was commissioned as a field artillery officer in 1992 and has Army experience in light infantry, armor, and Stryker units with operational deployments to Rwanda, Bosnia, and Iraq. His principle assignments include Company and Battalion Fire Support Officer, and Battery Executive Officer in 3-325 Infantry Airborne Battalion Combat Team at Vicenza, Italy, serving in Operation Support Hope, Rwanda, and Operation Joint Endeavor, Bosnia; Division Artillery Supply Officer, Battalion Fire Support Officer, 3-8 Armor, Battery Commander, 1-21 Field Artillery, and Headquarters Battery Commander, Division Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas; Instructor and Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry and Life Science at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York; Battalion Operations Officer, 2-12 Field Artillery in 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, from June 2005 to July 2008 at Fort Lewis, Washington, serving as an infantry battalion in Operation Iraqi Freedom, North Baghdad and Baqubah; Academy Professor and Deputy Head, Department of Chemistry and Life Science at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York; and Deputy Commander-Transformation, 20th CBRNE Command, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

Teaching and Research. Colonel Burpo teaches courses in biochemistry, bioengineering, biotechnology, biology, and general chemistry. He serves as the Principal Investigator in the Multi-Functional Materials Laboratory as part of the Center for Molecular Science at West Point. The lab's focus is to develop multi-functional materials that serve as both structural and energy storage materials to enable a range of Army platform technologies to include sensors and power-energy systems. These materials are envisioned to provide lightweight systems solutions by simultaneously building and powering devices across many length scales by controlling nanostructure.

COL Burpo is a graduate of the Artillery Officer's Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the United States Army's Command and General Staff College, and the Army Senior Service College Fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

COL Burpo's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal w/3 OLC, Army Commendation Medal w/5 OLC, Army Achievement Medal w/OLC, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Combat Action Badge, Ranger Tab, Army Senior Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the German Parachutist Badge.
