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Colonel James DeBoer entered the Army after graduating from the United States Military Academy in 1996 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. After graduation, he was assigned to the Aviation Branch and entered flight school at Fort Rucker, Aalabama.

After completing flight school, COL DeBoer served as an AH-64A flight platoon leader and class II/V support platoon leader in 3rd Squadron, 6th Cavalry, Camp Humphreys, Korea. He then served as a flight platoon leader with 1st Attack Helicopter Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, 3ID, Hunter Army Air Field, Georgia before deploying to Comanche Base, Bosnia as the aviation brigade plans officer for the 10th Mountain Division. Upon his return from Bosnia, he served as the battalion S-4 when 1st Attack Helicopter Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment conducted the conversion to the AH-64D at Fort Hood, Texas. After attending the Aviation Officer Advanced Course, COL DeBoer served as the squadron S-2 for 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry, and 11th Aviation Regiment at Fort Hood. Following this role, he served as the squadron assistant S-3 when the unit conducted a cohort movement to Storck Barracks, Germany and then deployed for the invasion of Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom I. Following this deployment, he became the commander for C Troop (AH-64D), 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry, 11th Aviation Regiment at Fort Hood, and oversaw the unit's move to Storck Barracks, Germany. COL DeBoer then deployed C Troop to Kandahar, Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom VI.

COL DeBoer joined the Acquisition Corps in 2006 and attended the University of Washington, Seattle, graduating in 2007 with a Master of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering. After receiving his master's degree, COL DeBoer graduated from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, Class 134 after completing the Army Fixed Wing Course. COL DeBoer's first acquisition assignment was as the OH-58C glass cockpit technology demonstrator test director and experimental test pilot. After serving in this capacity, COL DeBoer became the division chief for the Attack/Reconnaissance Helicopter Flight Test Division and System Integration, and the Division Chief for Simulation at the Redstone Test Center, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. He then served in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology (ASA (ALT)) as a Pentagon Department of the Army system coordinator for the CH-47, Improved Turbine Engine Program and Future Vertical Lift. COL DeBoer deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan with ASA(ALT) Forward as the U.S. Forces-Afghanistan joint staff acquisition advisor from 2012 to 2013. His next assignment was commander, Yuma Test Center from 2014 to 2017. Most recently, COL DeBoer was a student at the National Defense University's Eisenhower School and graduated with a Master of Science degree in National Strategic Resource Management.

His awards include the Bronze Star, two Air Medals with 'V', four Air Medals, the Meritorious Service Medal (3 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Joint Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (5 OLC), the Army Achievement Medal (3 OLC), the Combat Action Badge, the Master Army Aviator Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge and the Army Staff Identification Badge.



