



Captain Valen Bernat III was born in Berlin, Germany, on November 17th 1972. He graduated from Griggs County Central High School in June 1991 and attended North Dakota State University, and was a Distinguished Military Graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corps. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on 5 June 1996 as an Infantry officer. He attended the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Ranger Course and Infantry Captains Career Course at Fort Benning, Georgia and the Command and Staff Service School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

His first assignment was with the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky where he served as a rifle platoon leader, an anti-armor platoon leader, and a support platoon leader. He deployed to the Sinai, Egypt with the Multi-National Forces and Observers from July 1999 to January 2000 in support of Peace Keeping efforts there.

Bernat was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Hood, Texas where he served as the Assistant Operations Officer and Battalion Logistics Officer. He commanded C Company, 2-8 Infantry from June 2002 to June 2003 and deployed them to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He commanded Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-8 Infantry from July 2003 to July 2004, redeploying it from Iraq to Fort Hood, Texas.

On September 2, 2004 he was assigned as commander of the Minneapolis Recruiting Company, overseeing both Army and Army Reserve recruiting in the metro, Coon Rapids, Hopkins, Bloomington and surrounding area. He holds a Bachelors of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota.

His awards and decorations include the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Achievement Medal with nine Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Multi-National Forces and Observers Medal, the Ranger Tab, the Basic Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.