

Lissa Young



Lissa Young is a graduate of the United States Military Academy, and a former career Army Aviator. She flew CH-47D “Chinook” cargo helicopters, and also served on the faculty of the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership at West Point. In her capacity as an aviator, Lissa flew all over the world and has some great stories to tell. In her capacity as a faculty member at West Point, she served as the course director of the Academy’s core course in organizational leadership, and was responsible for a bottoms-up curriculum transformation for the department’s organizational leadership major.

After leaving the military in 2002, Lissa served as Raytheon Company’s lead sales representative for air traffic control systems in the Middle East. She managed accounts for all of the airports in

Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. It was during this time that Lissa served as a leadership development program consultant to Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government at the Center for Public Leadership working directly for David Gergen and Ron Heifetz.

In the Fall of 2007, Lissa was awarded a Presidential Fellowship by Harvard University, and is currently there pursuing her doctorate in education. Her academic focus is three-fold. Her dissertation is investigating the effects of stereotyping and prejudice on the dynamics of high performance groups. She conducted her study using the teams competing in the Sandhurst competition, an international military skills competition held at West Point every year. The second aspect of her research is how war has influenced the development and direction of the discipline of Social Psychology in the United States. Specifically, she is interested in how the thought leaders who shaped the discipline were influenced by their experiences conducting research for the nation’s war efforts during the 20th and 21st centuries. And finally, a third aspect of her work is the role of scholars who live in a nation at war. She is interested in how scholars, presumably bound by the pursuit of Truth, negotiate requests from the nation for their expertise to aid war efforts. She is examining the bounds of propriety in that delicate relationship.

While at Harvard, Lissa has remained involved in leader development consulting. She served on the Graduate School of Education’s committee to design and implement a new doctorate in Education Leadership. The doctorate was approved by Harvard University and matriculated its first class in the Fall of 2010. She also continues to serve as a primary team leadership consultant for the school superintendent leadership network in the state of Connecticut. Lissa, and her Harvard team, have and are continuing to, publish papers examining the network’s team dynamics and achievements as a result of her team’s designed interventions. Lissa has also served the U.S. Army by piloting curricula that teach deploying soldiers Social Perspective Taking in an effort to improve their ability to understand and communicate with host nationals. These efforts have resulted in several studies that demonstrate the effectiveness of the curricula.

Lissa holds a Bachelor of Science in Literature from the United States Military Academy, a Master of Arts in Social Psychology from the University of Kansas, and a Master of Arts in Education Policy, Leadership and Instructional Practice from Harvard University.

In her free time, you can find Lissa either riding her Harley, exploring another country, or conducting research on the history and culture of hip hop poetry.