



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
3^d Ordnance Battalion (EOD)
Fort Lewis, Washington 98433-5000



AFOD-D-CDR

1 March 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, U.S. Total Army Personnel Command, ATTN: Army
Astronaut Candidate Screening Board, TAPC-OPB-E (MR. Yager),
200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332-0411.

SUBJECT: Recommendation of CPT Matthew Geraci for the Army Astronaut Program

1. I highly recommend CPT Matthew Geraci for selection as an Army nominee to NASA for the Astronaut Program. I have known him for nine months as his battalion commander. I know of no other officer more qualified physically, technically, and as a leader to represent the U.S. Army as an astronaut.
2. CPT Geraci has clearly demonstrated those qualities that we seek in our Officer Corps. A caring and concerned leader, he expertly applies leadership and technical skills to the real world – and with an infectious enthusiasm that brings out the best in people. He is a master communicator, an articulate speaker, and a convincing writer. He is a champion who tackles his work with determination, passion, and persistence.
3. For the past two years as Commander, 62d Ordnance Company (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), he has demonstrated outstanding leadership ability and accomplished the most difficult tasks. He is qualified as an explosive ordnance disposal technician trained to disarm and dispose of terrorist bombs and over 18,000 US and foreign nuclear, biological, chemical, and conventional munitions – which requires keen intellect and technical aptitude. His duties require him to train for and work in deadly environments requiring the wear of confining protective clothing.
4. As the “bomb squad” commander, he is also responsible for the training and oversight of EOD soldiers. In October 2000, he deployed his 22-man company to an active combat zone in Kosovo to provide EOD support to US Forces and the local population. To date, he and his soldiers have responded to over 280 incidents in this hostile environment to disarm and dispose of terrorist bombs and conventional munitions without incident or injury – a tribute to his technical skills and leadership abilities.
5. Matthew Geraci is one of the best Captains in the Ordnance Corps – a genuine and talented leader. He is a mature, stable, and dedicated officer with high professional standards. Select this outstanding officer as a candidate for the astronaut program – he will not disappoint you or the Army.

KARL E. REINHARD
LTC, OD
Commanding