

## COLONEL BRIAN J. MENNES



Colonel Brian Mennes graduated from the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point, NY and was commissioned as an Infantry Officer in May 1988. His professional military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Command and General Staff College (CGSC), and a US Army War College Fellowship at the Institute of World Politics and the United Kingdom's Higher Command and Staff Course. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from USMA and a Masters in Military Art and Science from CGSC.

COL Mennes' first duty assignment was in the 7th Infantry Division, Fort Ord, CA, where he served as a Platoon Leader and Battalion Logistics Officer with service in Panama for Operation Just Cause and as a peacekeeper to the Sinai Desert with the United Nations Multinational Force & Observers.

He then served in a multitude of leadership and staff positions to include: Brigade Operations Planner and Mechanized Company Commander, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment in the Republic of Korea; Battalion Adjutant, Assistant Operations Officer and Company Commander, 3rd Ranger Battalion at Fort Benning, GA; Battalion and Brigade Operations Officer, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment (AIR), 82d Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC; primary Operational Planner, Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), for the unit's initial operations in Afghanistan and lead planner for JSOC's Iraq campaign, with three combat deployments; Brigade Executive Officer, 325th AIR, 82d Airborne Division, in Iraq; and, Deputy Director and Director, Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethic, USMA.

He commanded the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR), 82d Airborne Division and deployed to Afghanistan for 15 months where the unit served as the ISAF Commander's Theater Tactical Force (COIN Reserve) throughout Afghanistan. He then commanded 1st Ranger Battalion in Savannah, GA and deployed to both Afghanistan and Iraq. During his last operational assignment, COL Mennes commanded the 4th Brigade, 82d Airborne Division at Fort Bragg and deployed to Zharay (Western Kandahar) Afghanistan where he led a Combined, Joint and Interagency Task Force in support of Regional Command South.

His awards and decorations include: three Legions of Merit, five Bronze Star Medals, six Meritorious Service Medals, the NATO Meritorious Service Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Assault Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, and Ranger Tab.