

## **COLONEL KARL L. WRIGHT**

Colonel Wright's military career began in 1984 at Lackland AFB graduating as an honor graduate of Air Force basic training. He later transferred to the Utah Army National Guard and served as a communications specialist in the 19<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group, then attended Army Officer Candidacy School finishing as a distinguished graduate. Colonel Wright commissioned as a Field Artillery officer, serving in various positions including firing Battery Commander, Battalion Assistant S-3; and as Detachment Commander for Task Force 222 during Winter Olympics 2002.

Following Sept. 11 2001, COL Wright volunteered for title 10 active duty serving 3 ½ years as an Assistant Fire Support Coordinator and Planner for I Corps Staff at Fort Lewis, WA. Upon his return from I Corps, he served as the 1-145<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion S-3, and was a first responder for Hurricane Rita in 2005. He planned and coordinated the battalion's conversion from towed to a fully certified Paladin battalion.

2007, He was selected for Battalion Command and quickly received orders to deploy his battalion to Iraq to perform detainee operations. Upon Battalion Command completion, COL Wright served 4 years as Deputy Brigade Commander of the 204<sup>th</sup> Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, a new unit concept with complex capabilities and staff requirements. He then served 2 years as Deputy Brigade Commander of the 65FAB, and completed 2 years as the UT National Guard J-2, retiring as the Chief of the Joint Staff of the Utah National Guard in 2018.

COL Wright has a Bachelors Degree in Economics and a Minor in History from the University of Utah, and earned an MBA from the University of Phoenix graduating with a 3.96 GPA. He is an honor graduate of basic training, distinguished graduate of Officer Candidacy School, graduate of Artillery Officers Basic Course, honor graduate and master war fighter of Artillery Officers Advanced course, graduate of the Command and Staff Service School, graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and graduate of the U.S. Army War College, earning a Master of Strategic Studies.

### **Awards and Decorations include:**

Legion of Merit  
Bronze Star  
Meritorious Service Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters)  
Army Commendation Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters)  
National Defense Service Medal (with star device)  
Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with gold hourglass and M device)  
Iraq Campaign Medal  
Order of Saint Barbara

COL Wright and his wife Launa make their home in Salem, Oregon, have 2 children, Cassandra (Husband Paul), Alex, granddaughter Anya, and dog Trooper. In civilian life, he is the Director of Supply Chain Services at Salem Health, Salem, Oregon.