



COLONEL JOHNATHON W. BALLARD SR. **US Army, Retired**

NDR Hall of Fame Induction: 19 March 2016

Colonel Ballard commissioned through Northwestern's ROTC program in 1991. He holds a Bachelor of General Studies from NSU and a Master of Strategic Studies from the US Army War College.

He served as an Infantry Platoon Leader in the 256th Infantry Brigade and the 1-244th Aviation Regiment until attending Initial Entry Rotary Wing Course and Aviation Officer's Basic Course. He deployed in support of Operation Uphold Democracy, Haiti, as a Flight Platoon Leader then assumed command of Alpha Company, 1-244th Aviation Regiment. Additional assignments include Personnel and Administration Officer and Assistant Operations Officer, South Korea and Kuwait, for 8th US Army and 3rd US Army. In 2003, he deployed with the 204th TAOG in Support of Operation Enduring and Iraqi Freedom and served in multiple locations throughout Southwest Asia in Support of Coalition Forces as a Corps level Airspace Liaison and Planner.

Colonel Ballard then served as the Executive Officer in the 1-244th Aviation Regiment, where he participated in Life Saving Operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and completed his second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 1-244th Assault Helicopter Battalion. During his command of the 1-244th Assault Helicopter Battalion, the unit participated in Operation Deep Water Horizon, USSOUTHCOM support mission to Haiti, and Operation River Guardian. The unit also began its transition to field the UH-60M Blackhawk. Colonel Ballard served as the Operations Officer for the State Aviation Command and 204th TAOG. He has logged over 2,600 flight hours and over 300 combat flight hours. He currently serves as the Commander of the 61st Troop Command and the Louisiana CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP).

Colonel Ballard's military education includes the Aviation Officer's Basic Course and Captains Career Course, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Command and General Staff College, Joint Firepower Course, Joint Command and Control Course, UH-60A/L Aircraft Qualification Course, Aviation Pre-Command Course, UH-60M Aircraft Transition Course, and the US Army War College.

His awards and Decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2nd Award), Army Commendation Medal (3rd Award), Air Force Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal (2nd Award), Armed Forces Reserve Medal (2nd Award), Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (4th Award), Iraqi Campaign Medal, Combat Action Badge, and the Master Army Aviator Badge.

Colonel Ballard is married to Patricia Kelly Ballard. They have one son, Jackson.