

Colonel Richard D. Stearns

Colonel Richard D. Stearns is a native of Madison, South Dakota. He enlisted in 1994 as a Mechanized Infantryman and served in the South Dakota National Guard from 1998-2001 as a Construction Engineer and Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) ROTC Cadet. He then commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Military Police Corps and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from South Dakota State University. Colonel Stearns completed his Master of Science in National Security Strategy from the National Defense University. Colonel Stearns's military education includes the USAMPS Hostage Negotiation Course, Military Police Basic Officer Leader's Course (Commandant's List), Captain's Career Course (Commandant's List), Army Senior Instructor (ASI), Forensic Material Exploitation Course, Command and General Staff College (ILE), Joint Staff Officers Course, and National War College – National Security Strategy. He is also a graduate of the Missouri Highway Patrol Technical Driving Course.

Colonel Stearns's duty assignments include Platoon Leader, 1st MP Company, Kosovo (FWD)/Schweinfurt, GE; Executive Officer, 1st MP Company, Wurzburg, GE; Commander, 546th MP Company, Afghanistan (FWD)/Fort Stewart, GA; BOLC Instructor, USAMPS, Fort Leonard Wood; V Corps PM/ ANCOPI LNO, Afghanistan (FWD)/Wiesbaden, GE; Operations Officer, 95th MP Battalion, Sembach, GE; Operations Officer, 18th MP Brigade, Grafenwoehr, GE; Branch Chief, National and Nuclear Command Control and Communications Division (J-33), Washington, DC; Commander, 502nd Military Police Battalion (CID), Fort Campbell, KY; and most recently TRADOC G-34/Provost Marshal, Joint Base Langley – Eustis, Fort Eustis, Virginia.

His deployments include Camp Able Sentry, Skopje, Macedonia, 1995-1996; NATO Stabilization Force, Tuzla, Bosnia, 1996-1997; Kosovo Stabilization Force, RC-East, Kosovo, 2002-2003; Assistant S3, 385th MP Battalion, Salerno, Afghanistan and 546th MP Company, Salerno, Afghanistan, 2006-2008; IJC HQs/V Corps HQs, NKIA, Afghanistan, 2012-2013.

Colonel Stearns's awards and decorations include: the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC), Army Commendation Medal (2 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (4 OLC), Joint Meritorious Unit Award (1 OLC), Meritorious Unit Citation, Army Superior Unit Award (1 OLC), Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal (2 Service Stars), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon (Numeral 3), United Nations Medal, NATO Medal (Numeral 2), Joint Service Staff Identification Badge, and the French National Defense Medal (Bronze).

Colonel Stearns is married to the former Katerina Radeska from Skopje, Macedonia. They have three children, Elizabeth (22), Alexandra (18), and Isabella (11).