

COL Robert Mark Balcavage

Colonel Robert M. Balcavage assumed duty as the U.S. Army War College Chief of Staff, June 1st, 2014 after serving as the Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute Operations Officer.

Colonel Balcavage enlisted in the United States Army in 1983 as a forward observer and was assigned to the 7th Infantry Division, Fort Ord, Calif. After graduation from the United States Military Academy Preparatory School and United States Military Academy, he was commissioned as an Infantry Lieutenant in 1989.

Colonel Balcavage served as a Bradley platoon leader in the 6th Battalion, 6th Infantry, 1st Armored Division, in Bamberg, Germany. While assigned to USAREUR he led a Bradley platoon during Operation Desert Storm and later served as aide-de-camp to the 3rd Infantry Division Assistant Division Commander.

Following completion of the Infantry Officer Advanced Course in 1992 he was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, NC, where he served as battalion assistant operations officer, battalion logistics officer, and commander of Airborne Rifle Company A. During 1994, he served on the Sinai Peninsula in support of the Multinational Forces and Observers mission.

At Fort Benning, Ga., Col. Balcavage commanded the Ranger Rifle Company C, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment after duty as the battalion logistics officer.

After graduation from the Command and General Staff College, he was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, NY, where he served as battalion executive officer, 2d Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment; deputy division operations officer; and brigade operations officer for the 2d Brigade. As the deputy division operations officer, he deployed to Kosovo as a member of Task Force Falcon.

Colonel Balcavage next served as the Chief of Military Training, Department of Military Instruction, West Point, NY, before assignment to Fort Richardson as the future plans officer for US Army Alaska. Colonel Balcavage commanded 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry (Airborne) and led them in combat during the Iraqi Surge in 2006-2007.

Following command, Col. Balcavage served as Battalion Task Force Senior Observer-Controller at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., before attendance at the US Army War College, Class of 2011. Following graduation, Colonel Balcavage served as Communications Director, Joint Task Force-1 (1st Cavalry Division), RC East, Afghanistan.

His awards and decorations include two Bronze Star Medals, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Multinational Forces and Observers

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Medal, United Nations Medal (Kosovo), Kosovo Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Expert and Combat Infantryman Badges, Master Parachutist Badge, Jordanian Parachutist Badge, and Ranger Tab.

He is married to the former Kimberley Ann MacNair of Lehighton, Pa., and they have two children.