

COLONEL COURTNEY BLACKWELL

Colonel Blackwell currently serves as the Director for the Joint Center for International Security Force Assistance at Fort Leavenworth, KS. He began his career in 1986 after being commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery. During his career, he has served in a variety of command and staff assignments.

His overseas assignments include tours in Germany, Panama, Honduras, Qatar, and Iraq. In Germany, he was assigned to the 42nd Field Artillery Brigade where he served in tactical Field Artillery positions at the Platoon, Battery and Battalion level. In Panama, he served as an Operations Officer for United States Army South and Headquarters Company Commander for the Garrison, and in Honduras he was the Exercise Officer within the J-3. Later in his career, assigned to Qatar, he was the Deputy Commanding Officer for Army Support Group-Qatar and Camp As-Saliyah during Operation Enduring Freedom. In Iraq, he served as the 17th Iraqi Army Division Military Transition Team Chief attached to the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and the First Cavalry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Colonel Blackwell's Continental United States Army assignments include the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), 5th United States Army, the IIIrd Armored Corps Artillery, the Battle Command Training Program, 1st United States Army, and the Army Test and Evaluation Command. Assigned to the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, CO, he served in the Division Artillery commanding a firing battery and then working at the Division Fire Support Element. At Fifth Army he served as a Field Artillery Training Team Chief supporting and training Field Artillery units in Arkansas and Missouri. He was then assigned to the IIIrd Armored Corps Artillery at Fort Sill, OK, where Colonel Blackwell served in the Fire Support Element and in the G3-Current Operations Division. Upon completion of his assignments at Corps, he served as the Operations Officer and Executive Officer for the 6th Battalion 27th Field Artillery (MLRS). His next tour of duty was with the Battle Command Training Program as a Corps level planner for the World Class Opposing Force and a Fire Support Observer-Trainer with Operations Group-Alpha. Colonel Blackwell departed Fort Leavenworth and commanded the 2nd Battalion, 410th Field Artillery (Training Support) assigned to the First United States Army training Army Reserve and National Guard Battalions for deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served three times within the Army Test and Evaluation Command: first as the Chief of the Weapons Test Division for the Fire Support Test Directorate within the Operational Test Command; second as the Director of the Fires Evaluation Directorate within the Army Evaluation Center providing evaluations for all Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery acquisition programs, and finally culminating his ATEC assignments as the G3.

Colonel Blackwell is a Distinguished Military Graduate and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology from Campbell University. Colonel Blackwell's military education consists of the Field Artillery Officer Basic and Advance Courses, Combined Armed Services Staff School, and the Command and General Staff College.

Colonel Blackwell's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal (with one Oak Leaf Cluster), meritorious Service Medal (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement medal (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters), National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Iraq Campaign medal, and the Overseas Service Ribbon (3rd device).