

COL Craig A. Osborne

174th Infantry Brigade Commander

COL Craig A. Osborne was commissioned as an infantry officer and Distinguished Military Graduate of the ROTC program at Illinois State University in 1989. Upon completion of initial training at Fort Benning, GA, he was assigned to Fort Bragg, NC and the 82nd Airborne Division as a Rifle Platoon Leader in 4th Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment. He deployed to Kuwait as a member of the lead task force as part of OPERATION DESERT SHIELD in August of 1990 and subsequently served in Iraq as part of OPERATION DESERT STORM. Upon redeployment, he led Paratroopers as the battalion's Support Platoon Leader and then as the Scout Platoon Leader.



As a captain, COL Osborne served on the Division G3 Training staff of the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, KS. Upon assignment to the division's 2nd Brigade, he served as an Assistant S3 and then assumed command of D Company, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment. He subsequently assumed command of the battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Company and deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1997 as part of OPERATION JOINT GUARD. After completing company command, COL Osborne was selected to serve as the Aide-de-Camp to the Deputy Commanding General of NATO Allied Land Forces in Southeastern Europe and lived with his family in Izmir, Turkey.

After graduating from the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College and School of Advanced Military Studies, COL Osborne returned to Fort Bragg, NC and served as the Battalion S3 in 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division where he deployed to Afghanistan in 2002 as part of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM. After the unit returned to the United States, he assumed duties as the Division G3, Chief of Operations, and deployed to Iraq in that capacity in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM in 2003. Upon redeployment, COL Osborne served as the Regimental Executive Officer of the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, and then led the division's Modular Force Coordination Cell.

COL Osborne assumed command of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, TX in 2005 and deployed to Iraq again as part of OPERATION IRAQI

FREEDOM – serving twelve months in Baghdad. Upon completing battalion command, he was reassigned to the J3 section of the Joint Staff at the Pentagon and was subsequently selected to serve as the Deputy Executive Assistant and then Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Most recently, COL Osborne served as the Chief of Biometrics for coalition forces in Afghanistan and then as the Chief of Staff for Combined, Joint, and Interagency Task Force 435 from 2010-2011 as part of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.

COL Osborne's military schools include the National War College, the Joint and Combined Warfighting School, the School of Advanced Military Studies, the Command and General Staff Officer's Course, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the U.S. Marine Corps' Amphibious Warfare School, the Field Artillery Officer Advanced Course, the Armor Officer Advanced Course, the Infantry Officer Basic Course, and the Jumpmaster, Airborne, Pathfinder, and Ranger Schools. He has earned a Bachelors degree in History from Illinois State University; a Masters degree in Adult, Occupational, and Continuing Education from Kansas State University; a Masters degree in Military Arts and Sciences from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College; a Masters degree in National Security Strategy from the National War College; and holds a Graduate Certificate in Advanced International Affairs from the Bush School of Government at Texas A&M University.

COL Osborne's awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Bronze Star Medal (with four Oak Leaf Clusters), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), and the Army Achievement Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters). He has earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge (with Star), the Expert Infantryman's Badge, the Senior Parachutist's Badge, the Pathfinder Badge, the Ranger Tab, and the Joint Staff Identification Badge. COL Osborne has been awarded the the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award and received the Order of St. Maurice from the National Infantry Association and the Chief of Infantry, U.S. Army.

COL Osborne is married to the former Lois C. Gergeni of Decatur, IL and they have three daughters named Heather, Emily, and Kristen; a son-in-law named Private First Class Bryar Dalrymple who serves with 2/9 Marines at Camp Lejeune, NC; and a three-month old granddaughter named Abigail Christine Dalrymple.