



Lieutenant Colonel Derek E. Johnson



LTC Derek E. Johnson enlisted in the U.S. Army in December 1995 as a Combat Medic (91B), from 1996 to 1998. LTC Johnson served in the 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, and Fort Bragg, North Carolina. During this assignment, LTC Johnson served as a platoon medic and senior line medic. After his promotion to SGT, LTC Johnson received a ROTC Green-to-Gold Scholarship. LTC Johnson is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan where he received a Bachelor of Science degree and was commissioned as an Infantry Second Lieutenant in April 2000. LTC Johnson successfully completed Ranger Course 06-01 before reporting to Fort Drum, New York.

LTC Johnson served in 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, and Fort Drum, New York. During this assignment LTC Johnson served as a rifle platoon leader, and deployed with TF 1-87 to Afghanistan in October 2001 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OPERATION ANACONDA), following the deployment he served as company executive officer, battalion adjutant and battalion rear-detachment commander. Following his assignment at Fort Drum he was assigned to Fort Benning, Georgia where he served as a TAC Officer, U.S. Army Officer Candidate School from 2004-2005. LTC Johnson then attended the Infantry Maneuver Captain's Career Course (MCCC) in 2005 at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Upon completion of the Captain's Career Course, LTC Johnson was assigned to 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he served as the battalion assistant operations officer. LTC Johnson deployed with 1-505th PIR to Iraq in 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he took command of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-505th PIR. Following the deployment, LTC Johnson took command of Charlie Company and deployed again with 1-505th PIR to Iraq in 2008 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Following command he served as the brigade's chief of operations.

From 2010 to 2011, LTC Johnson was assigned to the Vision Center of Excellence in the National Capital Region as the Executive Officer. The agency focused on improving the care, treatment and rehabilitation of blinded and vision impaired Soldiers and Veterans. Following this assignment, he attended and graduated from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

After completion of the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS in 2012, LTC Johnson was assigned to the 2nd Armor Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Georgia. There he served as the brigade chief of plans and deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from 2012-2013. He later served as the Executive Officer, Operations Officer, and Acting Battalion Commander for 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment from 2013-2015.

In 2015, LTC Johnson was assigned to 1st Armor Division where he served as the division deputy operations officer and chief of current operations in the G3 section. For the last fifteen months, LTC Johnson was assigned as the Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Central (USARCENT).

From 2017 to 2019, LTC Johnson took command and served as the Battalion Commander, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment (Leader Rakkasan), 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Ft. Campbell, KY. Following a successful command he was assigned to the Office of the Chief of Infantry, U.S. Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, GA. as the Strategic Initiatives Chief.

LTC Johnson's military training and education includes the Basic Airborne Course, the Pathfinder Course, Air Assault Course, Ranger School, the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, and the Command and General Staff College.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (2 OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC), Army Commendation Medal (4 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (1 OLC), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (1 service star), Afghan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, the Pathfinder Badge, Basic Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the Ranger Tab.