



## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH** **75th RANGER REGIMENT**

U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
FORT BRAGG, NC 28310 / (910) 432-6005 / <http://www.soc.mil>

# **Col. Mark W. Odom**

## **REGIMENTAL COMMANDER**

Assumed command July 28, 2011

Col. Mark W. Odom received a Regular Army commission as an Infantry Officer in 1987 through the ROTC program at the University of Vermont.

After attending the Infantry Officer Basic Course, he served as a rifle platoon leader, company executive officer, and battalion S-3 Air in the 1-505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division from 1988-90.

Following his initial assignment, Odom again served as a rifle platoon leader, company executive officer, and battalion training officer at 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment in Savannah, Ga., from 1990-1992.

After attending the Infantry Officer Advanced Course in 1993, Odom received an assignment to the 5-20th Infantry, 2nd Infantry Division in the Republic of Korea. In the 5-20<sup>th</sup> Infantry, he served as the battalion logistics officer and commanded a Mechanized Infantry Company from 1993-1994.

In 1995, Odom returned to the 75th Ranger Regiment and received an assignment to the 2nd Ranger Battalion at Fort Lewis, Wash.

From 1995-99, he served as the battalion assistant operations officer and commanded both Alpha and Headquarters and Headquarters Company in 2nd Bn., 75th Rgr. Rgt.

In 1999, Odom attended the British Joint Services Staff College in Bracknell, England. Following the Staff College, he served as the chief of operations for the Southern European Task Force, operations officer for the 1-508th Airborne, and operations officer for the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vicenza, Italy from 2000-2003. During this period, he participated in both Operation Joint Guardian in Kosovo and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq.

Odom served as a politico-military planner for the Balkans in the Deputy Directorate for Europe, NATO, Russia and Africa in the Directorate for Strategic Plans and Policy (J-5) on



the Joint Staff from 2003-2005.

Following his assignment on the Joint Staff, Odom commanded 1-40th Cavalry Squadron at Fort Richardson, Ala., from 2005-2008 and 2nd Ranger Battalion from 2008-2010. He deployed 1-40th Cavalry in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and 2nd Ranger Battalion in support of both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Most recently, Odom completed the National War College in Washington, D.C.

Odom holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Middlebury College and a Master of Arts in War Studies from King's College London.