

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**COLONEL
WILLIAM J. DAVIS**

Inducted 9 May 2013



Col. William J. Davis was born in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1950. He enlisted in the Army on Veterans Day in 1971. After a period of enlisted service, Davis graduated from the Infantry Officer Candidate School, Fort Benning, Ga.

Col. Davis has served in a number of special operations units: the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne); 10th SFG(A); 11th SFG(A); PSSE-Berlin; Joint Special Operations Command; Special Forces Branch Chief, U.S. Army Personnel Command and Director of Special Operations, Army War College. In his 34 years of service, he has participated in large-scale combat operations and a significant number of highly sensitive joint, interagency and multinational missions spanning the scope of military operations from humanitarian assistance to combating terrorism.

During Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Col. Davis and the 2nd Battalion, 5th SFG (A) executed de-mining operations on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in support of Operation Safe Passage. He also served as the In-Extremis Counterterrorist Force, supported the NEO in Somalia during Operation Eastern Exit and conducted the full spectrum of special-operations core activities as well as combined missions with partner special-operations and PSYOP forces from the United Kingdom.

While conducting personnel recovery and coalition warfare missions, the battalion coordinated and executed the successful combat actions of three and one-half coalition divisions, from four separate nations, across a 70-mile front against an enemy numbering more than eight divisions without loss of American life. His battalion accounted for more than 8,000 enemy prisoners, numerous enemy tanks and artillery pieces destroyed, thousands of light weapons captured or destroyed, multiple heroic recoveries of special reconnaissance teams and the rescue of one American F-16 pilot from behind enemy lines. Up until Desert Shield/Desert Storm, no unit of this size in the history of the United States Army had ever replicated the magnitude of tasks and missions executed by 2nd Battalion.

He is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College and the Army War College. He has received and provided extensive training and education in the United States and abroad. He holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Millersville University, a master's degree in international relations from Salve Regina University and the title Master Faculty from the National Defense University. He was inducted into the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame in September 1996 and the Millersville University Athletic Hall of Fame in October 2009. He is a combat diver, master parachutist, is Ranger and Special Forces qualified and has numerous U.S. and foreign military awards.

Since 1997, Col. Davis has been heavily involved as a research patient for Gulf War Illness. In 2004, he was publicly recognized by Gen. Hugh Shelton, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and H. Ross Perot on CNN's Larry King Show. In 2005, the Colonel Bill Davis Fund for Research on Gulf War Illness was established at one of the key medical centers for Gulf War Illness and Chemical Agent Exposure, at the University of Texas Southwestern, Dallas, Texas.

He is an active member of Saint John the Apostle Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus Council 13467 in Virginia Beach, Va. He has been an active member of the Special Forces Association since the mid-1970s and served as the president of the Charles "Snake" Hoskings Chapter IV. He is also a founding member of the Hampton Roads Chapter LXXXIV and is a Life and Century member of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Museum. Additionally, he is an active life member of the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 20 in Virginia Beach and continues to maintain his allegiance to VFW Post 6493, Warminster, Pa.

Col. Davis serves as adjunct faculty, Joint Forces Staff College and as an editorial consultant for The Journal of Special Operations Medicine. Since 2010 he has served as a special adviser to the National Junior Honor Society of Princess Anne Middle School in Virginia Beach. In recognition of his distinguished military service and contributions to the Tidewater community, Col. Davis was honored by the City of Virginia Beach on Veterans Day 2011.

He is married to the former Susan Joy Matthews.