

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE CIVIL AFFAIRS REGIMENT



**COLONEL
RANDALL T. ELLIOTT**

Inducted May 2016



Col. Randal T. Elliott was born in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. He was commissioned in Field Artillery upon graduation from Stetson University. His initial service was at the Artillery Officer Basic Course, the Infantry Officer Basic Course and Airborne School.

Col. Elliott deployed to Germany as commander of a nuclear weapons team. As a result of exemplary performance by this team, Col. Elliott became the team leader of the European Nuclear Weapons Inspection Team.

Col. Elliott volunteered for service in Vietnam, serving for 17 months as an Infantry unit commander in the 101st Airborne Division. Following Vietnam service, he continued his active duty as a watch officer in the Korean Military Command Center. Following his branch transfer to Military Intelligence, he was a team leader in the 902nd Military Intelligence Group. He completed this period of active Army service as a Middle East Conflict Specialist at the National Military Command Center. At this point in his career, Col. Elliott became a Foreign Service Officer at the State Department.

He continued his Army service in the Army Reserve at the 352nd Civil Affairs Command. The 352nd had a CAPSTONE relationship with the U.S. Central Command. Col. Elliott was a leader who helped grow the close relations that developed between the 352nd and U.S. Central Command.

Following the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, the Emir of Kuwait requested U.S. assistance to reconstruct the country after its liberation. Col. Elliott, as a member of the 352nd, drafted the "Terms of Reference," which defined and clarified the State Department's lead position to provide United States reconstruction assistance to Kuwait. This U.S. assistance included the Defense Department's Civil Affairs capabilities — principally the 352nd Civil Affairs Command — to help in the planning and execution of reconstruction activities.

Col. Elliott was placed on active duty to command the Civil Affairs task force activated to assist with the planning and execution of Kuwait reconstruction, called the Kuwait Task Force, or KTF. Using a Civil Affairs skills database he had created, Col. Elliott identified, and then recruited, the Army Reserve senior civil sector functional experts needed by the KTF to provide military support for the reconstruction and governance of Kuwait. The KTF initially located in Washington, D.C., later moved to Saudi Arabia.

Within hours following liberation of the country, the KTF was in Kuwait providing reconstruction support and governance guidance. For his leadership of the KTF, Col. Elliott received recognition from Gen. Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joints Chief of Staff, and Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf the U.S. Central Command Commander. The participation of the KTF in the post-combat reconstruction of Kuwait is the subject of numerous studies and published articles, and is studied in military schools and senior military colleges.

Col. Elliott's final military service was at the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict.

Col. Elliott's military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, three Bronze Star Medals, one with a "V" Device, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, six Air Medals, Humanitarian Service Medal, Parachutist Badge and other medals and awards.

Col. Elliott has a bachelor's from Stetson University. He has a master's in Middle East international relations from the University of Maryland and a Doctorate of Middle East international relations from George Washington University.

Col. Elliott resides in Chevy Chase, Maryland. He is married to Dr. Roberta Palestine, a nationally recognized dermatologist.