

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS REGIMENT



**COLONEL
JOHN E. MARKHAM**

Inducted November 2016



Colonel John E. Markham was commissioned as an Infantry officer in 1977 upon graduation from the University of Florida. He served the Psychological Operations Regiment for almost 25 years both as a U.S. Army Officer and as a Department of Defense Civilian. His contributions to the Regiment advanced psychological operations from the tactical to the strategic during a period that extends from the end of the Cold War, through multiple humanitarian and stability operations to the current efforts to combat extremist threats globally.

Since 1992, Col. Markham has served in a myriad of leadership, operational and strategic joint and combined staff PSYOP positions. He served his inaugural assignment with the 4th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne) as the Commander, Co. A, 8th Psychological Operations Battalion during Operation Restore Hope in Somalia and later as the 8th PSYOP Battalion S3 and executive officer, planning, coordinating and overseeing the execution of operations throughout the Middle East. Due to his knowledge and experience, he was selected to serve as the PSYOP officer for the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe responsible for theater strategic PSYOP planning and policy for NATO forces in Europe during which he was instrumental in planning and integrating psychological operations in the NATO-led multinational peace enforcement mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Upon his return from SHAPE, Col. Markham was assigned to the Joint Information Operations Center, where he served as the U.S. Central Command Team Chief responsible for providing full spectrum information operations planning and capabilities in support of theater objectives. His expertise and leadership was evident as he successfully incorporated full spectrum IO, to include PSYOP, into Operations Desert Thunder and Desert Fox. His efforts contributed to the success of the Coalition in responding to Iraq's refusal to allow inspections of sites and comply with the "no-fly" zone in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution.

Col. Markham was selected to serve as a PSYOP observer/trainer with Operations Group D, U.S. Army Battle Command Training Program responsible for the integration of PSYOP, IO and Civil Affairs into the training and education of operational-level Army headquarters worldwide. He educated Army leaders on the capabilities PSYOP provides to the warfighter, which contributed to the inclusion of PSYOP planning in future operations.

In his culminating assignment, Col. Markham served as the Information Operations Division Chief and later Deputy Director, Special Operations Directorate at Special Operations Command – Central, where he deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. His efforts served as the foundation for psychological operations conducted throughout the theater of operations.

Following his retirement in 2005, Col. Markham was selected for government service as a Strategic PSYOP Planner for USSOCOM's Joint Military Information Support Command. He spearheaded the Trans-Regional PSYOP Program, responsible for planning, coordinating and executing the trans-regional influence campaign in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

In addition to his official duties, Col. (Ret) Markham is a founding member and leader in the MacDill Chapter of the Psychological Operations Regimental Association. His enthusiastic leadership and contributions to the chapter have been instrumental in sustaining the morale, cohesion and esprit of the currently serving and retired PSYOP professionals in the Tampa Bay community and beyond.