

Bruce Smith, Col, Army (ret.)

A Back Mountain native, and Bloomburg College graduate (B.A. Political Science, 1985), Colonel Smith was first commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, United States Army Reserve, in December, 1985. During Desert Storm in 1991, then 1st Lieutenant and later Captain Smith served in combat in Iraq as Team Leader, 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion and with 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, 1st Tiger Brigade, and 2nd Marine Division. He and his combat team helped secure Death Valley, establishing a temporary refugee camp north of Kuwait City. After combat operations concluded, he served as an operations officer in Saudi Arabia. His service during this and other combat operations would garner him multiple Bronze Stars.

Returning from overseas active duty in 1992, then Captain Smith served as an operations officer and then a detachment commander with 3rd Battalion, 11th Special Forces Group, and was instrumental in assisting with the Army's South Florida operations during and in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew. During the next five years, then Captain Smith served in various roles with an Army psychological operations (PSYOP) battalion. He then served as a vessel chief, 1176th Terminal Transportation Battalion.

Promoted to Major in January 2000, he served as Executive Officer, 424th Military Police Detachment in Ashley, Pennsylvania, where he deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 and 2004. He was instrumental in helping to stabilize Theater Detainee Operations after the Abu-Gharib prison events. While in Iraq, he was also dual hatted as a deputy provost marshal for the Multinational Corps at Camp Victory, Iraq.

Following his return from his second combat tour in the Middle East, then Major Smith served as Director of Personnel, 656th Area Support Group where he oversaw the deployment of thousands of troops. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in December 2005, he served the following year as an Operations Officer for the US Army Reserve Consequence Management Unit, protecting the American Homeland and the nation's political, informational, military and economic center of gravity. He then commanded the 421st Terminal Service Detachment over the next three years.

When his country called on him again in May 2011, Colonel Smith deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan for 14 months where he was responsible to plan and execute the logistics operations for 12 base camps in the region. Upon his return from Afghanistan, he was promoted to Colonel in February 2014, where he served as the battalion commander of the Special Troops Battalion 77th Sustainment BDE at Fort Dix, New Jersey. He retired from the Army on _____, ____.

A soldier's soldier, Colonel Smith's decorations over his 30 year military career include Bronze Star Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters (OLC), Army Commendation Medal (5 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (2OLC), Humanitarian Service Medal (1OLC), Armed Forces Reserve Medal (3 OLC), Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal (2 OLC), Overseas Service Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kuwaiti Liberation Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/1 Campaign Star, NATO Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation, Naval Meritorious Unit Citation, Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge and Combat Action Badge. A full biography is available upon request.