

**WEST VIRGINIA**  
**COL(R) Christopher P. Cmiel, USA**



COL(R) Cmiel, is the West Virginia Commissioner for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and was appointed on February 20, 2017. He had served as the Commissioner Designee since 2014 prior to his appointment.

His military career began in 1986 with the West Virginia Air National Guard (WVNG), and in September 1989, he transferred to the 130<sup>th</sup> Airlift Clinic as a Medical Laboratory Specialist. After obtaining the rank of Staff Sergeant, he attended the Academy of Military Science and on 13 September 1993 he received his commission as a second lieutenant. In May 1996, COL(R) Cmiel started, what would be, 16 years with the WVNG Counterdrug Program, serving in various positions including the Counterdrug Joint Task Force Commander. In 2004, he deployed as a C-130 Navigator in support of Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and IRAQI Freedom.

COL(R) Cmiel served as the Deputy Commander for the Joint Interagency and Education Center from 2006-2009. He was assigned to the WVNG Joint Forces Headquarters - J8, as the Director of Resources and Assessments from 2010-2015. He retired from active service with the WVNG on August 1, 2015 with over twenty-eight years of service and currently serves as the Director of the West Virginia Military Authority for the WVNG.

COL(R) Cmiel holds a Bachelor of Arts from the West Virginia State University and a Master's in Business Administration from Columbia Southern University. He is married to Deborah and has one daughter, Taylor.

