



United States Combined Arms Center  
and Fort Leavenworth

## Colonel Gus Benton, II

**Director  
Army Irregular Warfare Center  
Fort Leavenworth**

Colonel Gus Benton, II was born in Atlanta, Georgia. He graduated from Fort Valley State University in 1986 as an ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Signal Corps.

His initial assignment was to the 8/43rd Air Defense Artillery Battalion (PATRIOT), where he served as a Platoon Leader, Battery Executive Officer, and Battalion Signal Officer. His next assignment was with the 2/72nd Armor Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Casey, and Republic of Korea. Following his graduation from the Special Forces Qualification Course in 1993, Colonel Benton served in a number of positions within the special operations community from 1993-2001, to include serving as a Company Commander, Battalion Operations Officer, Battalion Executive Officer and Group-level Operations Officer. In Apr 2001, Colonel Benton was assigned to the Joint Staff, J37, Deputy Director for Special Operations in Washington, D.C. In Jun 2003, Colonel Benton assumed command of 2nd Battalion, 3d Special Forces Group (Airborne) and led the battalion during two combat tours in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF). In Jul 2007, Colonel Benton was reassigned as the Chief of Staff, United States Army Special Forces Command (Airborne). In Jul 2008, Colonel Benton assumed command of the 3<sup>rd</sup> SFG(A) and deployed the Group to Afghanistan in support of OEF XIII and XV, serving as COMCJSOTF-A. In Aug 2010, Colonel Benton was reassigned to Headquarters, United States Special Operations Command in Tampa, Florida as the J33-Ground Maritime Fires Branch Chief. In Aug 2013, Colonel Benton was reassigned as the Director, Army Irregular Warfare Center, Mission Command Center of Excellence, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Colonel Benton's military education includes the Signal Officer Basic and Infantry Officer Advanced Courses, the U.S. Army Command General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. His civilian education includes a Bachelor of Science in Electronics Engineering Technology from Fort Valley State University, a Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University and a Master of Science in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Colonel Benton's awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Achievement Medal and the Army Achievement Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters. He is also the recipient of the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, the Ranger Tab, the Special Forces Tab and Jump Wings from the nations of Egypt, Kuwait, Oman, Jordan, Yemen, and Pakistan.