



U.S. Army Combined Arms Center
and Fort Leavenworth

Colonel David M. Blackburn

Colonel Blackburn initially entered the Regular Army in June 1978 as an enlisted man. He received a commission in the Regular Army in May 1983. He attended the Infantry Officer Basic Course at Fort Benning, GA. Upon graduation he was assigned to Fort Rucker, AL for flight school. After graduation in August 1984, he was sent to Germany and was assigned to the 62nd Aviation Company at Maurice Rose AAF. There he served as a Platoon Leader, and Helicopter Section Leader. After the Advanced Course, he attended the AH-1F Cobra Test Pilot Course at Fort Eustis, VA. In Dec 1988 he was assigned to 1st Battalion (Attack), 2nd Aviation Regiment in Korea. There he served for 21 months as the Battalion S-4 and the D Company Commander. He departed Korea for the OH-58D qualification course and the OH-58D Test Pilot Course. In December 1990 he was assigned to Fort Bragg, and immediately deployed to Operation DESERT STORM with the 82nd Aviation's D Company (AMC) as the Maintenance Platoon Leader. Upon his return from Saudi Arabia, he commanded F Troop, 1st Squadron (Air), 17th Cavalry (Airborne) for 25 months. Major Blackburn then commanded, D Company (AMC), 82nd Aviation Brigade. Following command, he became the Executive Officer of 1st Squadron (Air), 17th Cavalry. After attending CGSC in 1997, he was assigned to the V Corps, in Heidelberg as a planner. During that assignment he became the Deputy G4 for TF Hawk in Tirane, Albania. Following V Corps, he worked in USAREUR DCSOPS. Upon return from Germany, he instructed at the Command & General Staff College. LTC Blackburn commanded 4th Battalion, 159th Aviation at Fort Bragg. He took the battalion to Afghanistan in February 2003 for Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. After command he attended the U.S. Army War College. In January 2005 he and 8 other officers were pulled out of the War College and sent to Iraq. There he served as the Chief of Operations for Multi-National Force – Iraq. In late 2005 he returned from Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and reentered the War College. He graduated from the War College in June 2006 and in July became the Director of Collective Training at Fort Leavenworth. He is a senior Army Aviator, master parachutist, and air assault qualified.



His awards include the BSM, MSM, Air Medal, and Army Good Conduct Medal. He has master's degrees from Central Michigan University & the U.S. Army War College.