



U.S. Army Combined Arms Center
and Fort Leavenworth

Colonel Shawn Vail

Commander
Army Training Support Center

COL Shawn M. Vail started his military career in 1986 as an Anti-Tank Gunner (11H) in the Combat Service Company, 3d Battalion, 109th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania National Guard. He attended Basic Training and Advance Individual Training at Harmony Church Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1987 and in 1990 was commissioned as an Armor Officer upon his graduation from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania.



COL Vail served in a variety of troop assignments. From 1990 to 1994 he served as a Tank Platoon Leader, Scout Platoon Leader, and Company Executive Officer in the 2nd Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment in the 8th Infantry Division (later re-designated to the 1st Armored Division), Baumholder, Germany. Upon graduation from the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, COL Vail was assigned to the 24th Infantry Division (later re-designated to the 3rd Infantry Division), Fort Stewart, Georgia, where he commanded C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment from March 1996 to March 1997 and then Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment from March 1997 to March 1998. COL Vail commanded the 3d Squadron, 16th Cavalry Regiment (316 Cavalry Brigade), Fort Knox, Kentucky, from July 2009 through July 2011.

COL Vail's non-troop assignments include service as the EDRE Operations Officer in the 24th Infantry Divisions G3 Operation Section, Fort Stewart from December 1994 to July 1995, as a Squadron Assistant S3, 2nd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, Fort Stewart from August 1995 to March 1996, as an Observer Controller at Fort Irwin, California, 1998 to 2000. COL Vail then served as a Small Group Instructor and Senior Small Group Instructor at the United States Armor Center at Fort Knox from 2000 to 2003.

COL Vail's Field Grade assignments include service as the Battalion Executive Officer for the 1st Battalion, 13th Armor Regiment (2004-2006), Fort Riley, Kansas, with a deployment to Camp Taji, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (2005-2006), Brigade Operations Officer for the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armor Division (2006-2007), Chief of Operations for the 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley (2007-2008). COL Vail's was then assigned to the 2d Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division (2008 – 2009) as the Brigade Executive Officer with deployment to Camp Liberty, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (2008-2009). Following his Squadron Command, COL Vail served as the Armor Enlisted Branch Chief (August 2011 to July 2013). COL Vail deployed to Afghanistan, where he served as the Deputy Director for the Strategic Targeting and Information Operations Cell, International Security Assistance Forces – Afghanistan in Kabul, Afghanistan, (July 2013 to July 2014). His most recent assignment has been as the Director of the Live Training Directorate, CAC-T (September 2014 – January 2017).

COL Vail holds a Master's Degree in Education from Kansas State University. His military education includes the Armor Officer Basic Course, The Infantry Officer Advance Course, the Joint Firepower Control Course, the Combined Arms Service Staff College and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (1 OLC), the Purple Heart Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (1 SOLC), the Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC) and the Army Achievement Medal (4 OLC). He also earned the Combat Action Badge, the Parachutist Badge and the Air Assault Badge.