

## Biography for COL Kristopher H. Howell



COL Howell grew up in Aurora, Illinois, and was commissioned as an Armor Officer in May of 1999 upon graduation from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

His first tactical assignment was with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 67<sup>th</sup> Armored Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas from 2000-2004. He served as Assistant Battalion S3, Tank Platoon Leader, Headquarters Company Executive Officer, and deployed to OIF 1 as the Battalion S5.

After completing the Armor Captain's Career Course in December of 2004, he was again assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division where he served as the Division's Tactical Command Post Battle Captain until deployment to OIF 05-07 when he assumed duties as the Division Main Battle Captain for Multi-National Division-Baghdad. During that deployment, he later commanded C Troop 7<sup>th</sup> Squadron, 10<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry, in 1st BDE, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Taji, Iraq. He remained in command of C Troop for its return to Iraq in support of OIF 07-09 and changed command in East Rasheed Baghdad in September of 2008.

After promotion to Major and a short time serving as a liaison officer for the MND-B Headquarters, COL Howell returned home with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Headquarters, and he was then assigned to the 194<sup>th</sup> Armored Brigade at Fort Knox, KY from 2009-2011. While in the 194<sup>th</sup>, he served as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 81<sup>st</sup> Armored Regiment Executive Officer, and then the 194<sup>th</sup> Armored Brigade S3 prior to attending the Command and General Staff College Staff Officer's Course at Fort Leavenworth.

After completing the US Army Command and General Staff Officers Course in 2012 and earning a master's degree in Adult, Occupational, and Continuing Education from Kansas State University, COL Howell was assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division at Fort Stewart from 2012 through 2014 where he served as the Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion Home Detachment Commander; 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, 7<sup>th</sup> US Cavalry Executive Officer; and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Brigade Combat Team S3.

From January 2015 through March 2017, COL Howell served as a Tactics Instructor and Staff Group Advisor for the US Army Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, KS. While serving at the Command and General Staff College, he also served as a curriculum writer and as the Armor Liaison between the college and the US Army Armor School and Maneuver Center of Excellence.

From April 2017 through May 2019, COL Howell commanded the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 37<sup>th</sup> Armored Regiment at Fort Bliss, Texas as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Brigade Combat Team of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division. During his command, they deployed as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade supporting Operations Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve, serving in Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.

From May 2019 until June 2020, COL Howell served as the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations (G3) and deployed to Afghanistan supporting Operations Freedom's Sentinel and Resolute Support Mission Afghanistan. He served as the Resolute Support Combined Joint Operations Center (CJOC) Director and Director of Current Operations.

COL Howell attended the Advanced Strategic Leadership Studies Program in the School of Advanced Military Studies for his Senior Service College for academic year 2020-2021, and he served as an Advanced Military Studies Program Seminar Leader within the School of Advanced Military Studies for academic year 2021-2022.

COL Howell assumed duties as the Chief of Operations Group Charlie within the Mission Command Training Program in July of 2022.

COL Howell is married to the former Julie Ellsworth of Wheeling, IL. They have two daughters – Alexandria and Elisabeth.