

# COLONEL RONALD M. KAPRAL



Colonel Ronald M. Kapral was born and raised in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. He enlisted into the United States Army in November 1973, completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Polk, Louisiana, attended Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas and was awarded the 91D MOS (Operating Room Technician). Colonel Kapral's first assignment was with the 47th Combat Support Hospital at Fort Lewis, Washington. He left active duty in November 1975 and later attended the Washington National Guard Military Officer Candidate School program. Colonel Kapral was then commissioned as a Second Lieutenant Armor Officer in 1982. He served in numerous command and staff positions prior to his assignment as the Joint Operations Officer (J3), Joint Force Headquarters, Washington National Guard.

Colonel Kapral's first assignments include serving as a Scout Platoon Leader and Company Executive Officer with the 1-803 AR. In 1985, he was assigned as the Commander of Troop E, 303rd Cavalry and

later transitioned as an Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) officer in the Washington Army National Guard.

As an AGR officer, Colonel Kapral has served in numerous positions in the 81st Brigade, to include: Strength Accounting Officer, 81<sup>st</sup> BDE; S3 Air, 3-161 IN; S3, 3-161 IN; Assistant S3, S3 Air, and Training Officer, 81<sup>st</sup> BDE. In August 1999 Colonel Kapral was the Executive Officer of 4th Brigade, 91st Division, Fort Lewis, Washington. He assumed Command of the 1-303<sup>rd</sup> Armor Battalion in July 2002. While in command, the 1-303<sup>rd</sup> Armor Battalion deployed to Fort Hunter Liggett, California and subsequently received orders to initiate mobilization procedures on November 15, 2003 in support of OIF II. On February 13, 2004, the battalion deployed to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California in preparation for deployment. The 1-303<sup>rd</sup> Armor Battalion crossed the Kuwait/Iraqi border enroute to Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq on April 2, 2004. Colonel Kapral led the battalion in Baghdad under the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division in support of OIF II through March 2005. The battalion conducted numerous missions in Iraq; the most notable of which include the Iraqi change of sovereignty and the Iraqi elections. The battalion was awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation (MUC) for operations during this period and returned to Fort Lewis, Washington for demobilization on April 15, 2005.

Colonel Kapral was promoted to the rank of Colonel in September 2005, and assumed the duties of Director of Military Support to Civil Authorities. Colonel Kapral has participated in numerous exercises involving the Emergency Management Division and has also been the primary operations officer for the Washington National Guard's responses to recent windstorms and flooding in Washington State.

Colonel Kapral is a graduate of the Armor Officer Basic Course, Armor Officer Advanced Course and the Command and General Staff College. Colonel Kapral's awards include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (8th Award), National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Bar (2nd Award), and the Draper Leadership Award.

Colonel Ronald M. Kapral and his wife, Leslie, have three children; Stewart, Daphne, and Michael, and one grandchild; Alexis.