

## LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM D. LINN II U.S. Army (Ret.)

Lieutenant Colonel Bill Linn, a native of Minnesota, enlisted in the US Army on 21 June 1989 and served as an Infantryman with C Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia. After participating in the combat parachute assault that spearheaded Operation JUST CAUSE, the US invasion of Panama, he earned an appointment to the United States Military Academy through the USMA Preparatory School at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. After graduating from West Point in 1995 with a commission as an infantry officer, Bill served as a Rifle Platoon Leader and the Battalion Air Operations Officer with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment at Fort Richardson, Alaska from 1996 to 1998. Returning to the Rangers from 1998 to 1999, he served as the Battalion Mortar Platoon Leader, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment at Fort Lewis, Washington.



After volunteering for Special Forces in 2000, Bill's first assignment within the SF Regiment was as the Detachment Commander, Operational Detachment-Alpha 025, B Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Panzer Kaserne, Germany. While in command from 2001 to 2004, he participated in Operations JOINT GUARDIAN in Kosovo and SHARP GUARDIAN in Lebanon. He later served as Chief of the Patrol Division at the International Special Training Center, von Fritsch Kaserne, Germany from 2004 to 2006. Bill returned to the 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Carson, Colorado in 2008 to serve as the Group Plans Officer as well as the Plans Officer for the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Arabian Peninsula during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. He later commanded B Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) from 2009 to 2010 and deployed the Company to Mali in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM-TRANS SAHARA. While serving as the Group Operations Officer from 2010 to 2011, he supported Special Operations Command-Africa as the Deputy Current Operations Officer during Operation ODYSSEY DAWN in Libya. On 18 August 2011, Bill assumed command of 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and subsequently deployed to Afghanistan with the Battalion in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM as the Commander of Special Operations Task Force-East. After relinquishing command, Bill was assigned as the Director of the Commander's Initiatives Group, Headquarters, US Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg from 2013 to 2014 before returning to the 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Carson as the Deputy Commanding Officer. While serving in this capacity, he deployed as the Director of Special Operations Command-Central's liaison team to the Combined Joint Task Force-Operation INHERENT RESOLVE in support of combat operations against ISIS in Iraq and Syria. Despite an early selection for promotion to Colonel and brigade-level command, Bill elected to retire from the Army on 31 January 2017 to co-found and serve as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Heritage Arsenal in Colorado Springs, Colorado - a company dedicated to the preservation of military history and the legacy of military service. Also engaged as an independent consultant, Bill's desire for continued service includes committee membership with Support a Soldier, the Pikes Peak Heroes Legacy Committee, and with Boy Scouts of America as the Scoutmaster of Troop 777.

Bill earned a Bachelor of Science from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, and a Master of Military Art and Science from SAMS, the School of Advanced Military Studies at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Additionally, he earned a Master of Strategic Studies from the US Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, where he was recognized as a Distinguished Graduate. His awards and decorations include the Combat Infantryman's Badge (2<sup>nd</sup> Award), Expert Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutist's Badge with Combat Jump Star, Pathfinder Badge, Air Assault Badge, Special Forces and Ranger Tabs, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster. Bill is a qualified military parachutist in 13 foreign countries and has received awards and decorations from NATO and the German, Dutch, and Danish Governments. In 2019, the Duke of Braganza of the Royal House of Portugal conferred a knighthood upon Bill at the National Basilica in Washington, DC.

On 10 May 1997, Lieutenant Colonel Linn married the former Miss Courtney Florence Olson of Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania in the Cadet Chapel at West Point. They have three children: Darby, a senior at the University of Colorado Boulder; Rebecca, age 16; and William III, age 14. The Linn Family resides in Colorado Springs, Colorado.















