



MAJOR GENERAL Michael L. Howard
Director of Operations (J3)
United States European Command

Major General Michael L. Howard was commissioned as Second Lieutenant through ROTC upon graduation from Mercer University in May 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. He also holds a Masters degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the National War College.

Prior to taking command of the Joint Force Headquarters - National Capital Region and the U.S. Army Military District of Washington, MG Howard served as Director of Force Management, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, United States Army, Washington, District of Columbia.

MG Howard began his military career as a rifle platoon leader, scout platoon leader, executive officer and assistant operations officer in the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armored Division, United States Army Europe, Germany, and deployed in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm in Iraq. In June of 1996, he was assigned to Fort Lewis, Washington, where he served as the personnel officer and later the assistant operations officer and 8 Company Commander of 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

Upon completion of the Command and General Staff College, in June of 1998, MG Howard was assigned to Fort Benning where he served as the Liaison Officer and Operations Officer in the 3rd Battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment. In June of 2000, he would be assigned to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he served in the Plans and Policy Directorate of the Joint Special Operations Command. Following his assignment at Joint Special Operations Command, in May of 2003, he would be assigned to Fort Drum, New York where he took command of the 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan. Upon redeployment in June of 2005, MG Howard served as the Assistant Chief of Staff, Division Operations Officer (Rear), of the 10th Mountain Division. He then deployed again in May of 2006 to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom where he served as Commander, 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.

After completing studies at the War College in June of 2008, MG Howard was assigned to Fort Richardson, Alaska where he served as Commander of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division and deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. After Brigade command, in July of 2010, he was assigned as the Special Assistant and later the Executive Assistant to the Supreme Allied Commander.

Europe/Commander United States Army European Command. He then served as the Director of Future Operations, International Security Assistance Force, Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan, from October 2012 to October 2013. In October 2013, MG Howard became Deputy Commanding General/Acting Senior Commander for Fort Drum, 10th Mountain Division, and later Deputy Commanding General (Operations), 10th Mountain Division. He then deployed in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel as Commander, Train Advise Assist Command-East, Resolute Support Mission, October 2015 to August 2016.

MG Howard has a number of awards and decorations to include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, NATO Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Combat Infantryman Badge (with star), Expert Infantryman Badge, and the Master Parachutist Badge and Ranger Tab.