



Colonel Rodney K. Tatum

Commander, 78th Troop Command



COL (P) Tatum entered the Georgia Army National Guard in 1997 as an SMP cadet with 1/121 in Gainesville GA. He commissioned as an Artillery Officer in December of 2000 after completing ROTC training through the University of North Georgia.

COL (P) Tatum worked his way through key developmental assignments in Georgia and the North Carolina National Guard, remaining in the Georgia Guard since 2013. Notable recent assignments have been Deputy Commander 78th Troop Command, Commander 560th BCD, Liaison Officer for 3ID MCPD, Commander 1/118th Field Artillery, 48th IN BDE, and FSCOORD 648th MEB.



COL (P) Tatum has served honorably with multiple overseas operations including deployment to both Iraq and Afghanistan. Awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal w/ 1 OLC, Meritorious Service Medal w/1 OLC, Army Commendation Medal w/2 OLC, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal w/5 OLC, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M and Hour Glass Device, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, NATO Medal, the Bronze Polish Army Medal and the Combat Action Badge

COL (P) Tatum's civilian and military education include Masters +30 from Andrews University in History, Masters of Education from Georgia Southern University, Masters of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College, and a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Broad Field Social Science from the University of North Georgia. He is a graduate of the United States Army War College, the Command and General Staff Officers' Course to include the Advanced Operations Course, Field Artillery Captains Career Course, Logistics Captains Career Course, and Field Artillery Officer Basic Course.

COL (P) Tatum, his wife Melanie, and his two children reside in Clover, South Carolina where he continues to serve the community as a history teacher, football coach and wrestling coach.