

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**COLONEL
MARK E. MITCHELL**
U.S. Army, Retired

Inducted April 20, 2023



Colonel Mark E. Mitchell was commissioned in 1987 as an infantry officer and served in the 24th Infantry Division, including Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He graduated from the Special Forces qualification course in 1993, and would serve as a detachment commander, company commander, battalion operations officer, and battalion commander with the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was Director of Plans at the U.S. Special Operations Command Central. He also served as Director of Operations for Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force Arabian Peninsula and later as both commander, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and commander, Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force Arabian Peninsula earning a Meritorious Unit Commendation in Iraq. After serving as the senior military assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense of Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict, he culminated his active-duty service as the Director for Counterterrorism on the National Security Council.

Mitchell spent a significant portion of his military career in the Central Command Area of Responsibility, leading combat operations in Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq. He would also serve as a National Security fellow at Harvard University and a non-resident fellow at the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point.

After his military career, Mitchell was both Director for Special Programs and Vice President for Operations and Intelligence with Intelligent Waves, LLC. From 2017 - 2019, he was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in the Department of Defense, where he provided leadership and oversight for all Special Operations Forces and activities as both principal deputy and acting assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and low intensity conflict, earning a Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Award, the highest civilian public recognitions bestowed by the Secretary of Defense.

Mitchell's accomplishments and contributions to the Special Forces Regiment as a leader and mentor continue beyond his active-duty service as a Life Member of Special Forces Association, Life Member of Legion of Valor, and a Board Member of both Gold Star Teen Adventures and The Special Operations Association Foundation.

He and his wife Mary Ann have been married for more than 30 years and have two daughters, including one serving on active duty in the U.S. Army. They live in Falls Church, Virginia.