

# DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**LIEUTENANT GENERAL  
BENNET S. SACOLICK**  
*U.S. Army, Retired*

Inducted 2021



Lt. Gen. Bennet Sacolick began his United States Army career enlisting as a private in 1981 and retiring 35 years later as a lieutenant general. He completed his career in July 2016 as the director for Strategic Planning at the National Counterterrorism Center, where he wrote and assessed National Security Strategies and provided policy recommendations on behalf of the White House and National Security Council.

His first assignment was as an infantryman in the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment prior to attending Officer Candidate School, where he was commissioned as an infantry officer assigned to the 1/509th Airborne Battalion Combat Team in Vicenza, Italy. He then attended the Special Forces Qualification Course and as was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group in the Republic of Panama.

As a career Special Forces officer, Lt. Gen. Sacolick commanded at every level, from detachment through division, including 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta and the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, the Army's Special Operations Center of Excellence. Lt. Gen. Sacolick served as the first deputy director for Defense at the Central Intelligence Agency's Counter Terrorism Center. He stood up the Directorate of Force Management and Development at Headquarters, United States Special Operations Command, where he managed a multi-million-dollar comprehensive health and wellness program and directed the talent development efforts of the nation's Special Operations Forces.

Lt. Gen. Sacolick conducted operations in more than 35 countries, spanning four continents. He participated in combat operations in El Salvador, Peru, Colombia, and named operations, including Just Cause in Panama, Desert Storm in the middle east, Task Force Ranger in Somalia, Joint Endeavor in Bosnia, Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and Iraqi Freedom in the middle east.

Lt. Gen. Sacolick's military education includes Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Special Forces Qualification Course, Defense Language Institute (Spanish), United States Army Command and General Staff College, and the National Clandestine Services Graduate Studies program while serving as an Army Fellow at the Central Intelligence Agency.

His military awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, (one Oak Leaf Cluster), National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal, Army Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal (two Oak Leaf Clusters), Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal (two Oak Leaf Clusters), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (Oak Leaf Cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (Oak Leaf Cluster), Joint Service Commendation Medal (Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Commendation Medal (Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Achievement Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge (with Star), Master Parachutist Badge, Military Free Fall Parachutist Badge, Special Operations Divers Badge, Ranger Tab, Special Forces Tab.

Lt. Gen. Sacolick remains involved in numerous volunteer organizations to include serving as the vice president of the Special Forces Charitable Trust, an organization dedicated to the sole proposition of taking care of Special Forces Soldiers and their families. Bennet and his wife, Joyce, retired to Pinehurst, North Carolina.