

# DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS REGIMENT



**COLONEL  
MICHAEL K. SEIDL**  
*U.S. Army, Retired*

Inducted 2021



Colonel Michael K. Seidl served the Psychological Operations community for over 19 years as both a U.S. Army Commissioned Officer and Department of the Air Force Civilian.

Col. Seidl was commissioned as an Armor Officer in May 1979 as a Distinguished Military Graduate and George C. Marshall Award winner out of New Mexico Military Institute. Following company command of M1 and HHC tank companies, he received a graduate degree in German and was assigned to the United States Military Academy. Here, he was selected as a General Douglas MacArthur leadership award winner in 1990. He was assigned to the 4th POG in June of 1994 and served the next 16 years in PSYOP positions of ever increasing responsibility culminating his Army career at the Pentagon as the Director for Military Information Support Operations (MISO)/Psychological Operations (PSYOP). After retiring, Colonel Seidl served as a Department of the Air Force Civilian employee for the U.S. Special Operations Command's National Capital Region (NCR) from June 2012 until September 2015.

Assigned to the 6th Psychological Operations Battalion (Abn) in June 1994, he served as a Detachment Commander and deployed to various NATO partner countries. In December 1995, he deployed to NATO Headquarters Sarajevo, Bosnia, to serve as the first Operations Officer for the Combined Joint IFOR Information Campaign Task Force for the implementation of the Dayton (Peace) Accords. In August 1996, he became the PSYOP officer in the J-3 of the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He took command of the 6th Psychological Operations Battalion oriented on the United States European Command Area of Responsibility in July 1999. He immediately deployed as the first PSYOP Task Force Commander to NATO Headquarters Pristina, Kosovo and was responsible for all strategic communication and information plans for NATO. As a result of his outstanding efforts supporting NATO and German operations, Colonel Seidl was awarded the "Ehrennadel Operative Information" (German PSYOP Regimental Honors) in January 2000. He is the only U.S. Officer ever awarded this honor. From July 2001 to June 2003 Colonel Seidl served as the Deputy Commander of the 4th PSYOP Group. In June 2003, he was assigned as the G3 Operations for USACAPOC (A).

Col. Seidl served as the U.S. Army Senior Fellow to the United States Institute of Peace, from July 2004 to July 2005. He deployed to Afghanistan in support of Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan to further coalition and Afghan Ministry interaction. His work resulted in the publication of a USIP primer on how the military and non-governmental organizations could work together for the establishment and advancement of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs).

From December 2005 until November 2008, he commanded the 2nd PSYOP Group where he sustained the preparation, mobilization and continuous deployment operations for 300+ Soldiers to multiple countries and OIF / OEF. He personally deployed in support of Commander, SOCCENT to conduct assessments for MISO operations throughout the Middle East and Africa.

From November 2008 to April 2010, he was the Director for MISO/PSYOP for the ASD SO/LIC. As the most senior and principal PSYOP advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense, he oversaw Special Operations Forces (SOF) Strategic Communication, Information Operations, and MISO/PSYOP.

Col. Seidl's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit (3), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2), Meritorious Service Medal (4), both the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Office of the Secretary of Defense Service badges, as well as the Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Wings and three Overseas Service Ribbons. He has deployed to Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq during his service.

Col. Seidl is married to the former Dana R Burkhead of Norman, OK and they have three children and four grandchildren.