

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE CIVIL AFFAIRS REGIMENT

LIEUTENANT COLONEL
STEVEN FOSTER
Inducted March 2012



Lt. Col. Steve Foster was commissioned as an Infantry officer in the Army, following graduation from the University of Florida.

During his early military career, he served as an Infantry rifle platoon leader, Infantry mortar platoon leader and Infantry company executive officer.

From February 1990 to June 1991, then Capt. Foster served as the deputy director of public safety, Würzburg Germany. In 2002, he served as both the deputy national director for CMO, but also as the commanding general's liaison officer to the Special Representative of the Secretary General, UN Assistance Mission Afghanistan. His next assignment was assistant chief of staff for Civil Affairs with the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y. From 2003 to 2004, he served as the National Director for Civil Military Operations assigned to Combined Joint Task Force 180 in Bagram, Afghanistan. In June 2005, he became the chief of the Stability Operations Branch at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Foster then served as the Civil Capacity Instructor at the Iraqi Counterinsurgency School, where he provided graduate-leave instruction to all incoming U.S. brigades on the broader civil capacity challenges facing them in Iraq.

Following his retirement, Foster assumed a position as a subject-matter expert in Civil Affairs at Booz Allen Hamilton. At Booz Allen, he serves as a consultant on a wide range of topics including civil-military security, multi-national and interagency operations with an emphasis on the Department of Homeland Security, foreign humanitarian assistance, defense support to civil authorities and strategies for mitigating risk while promoting civil preparedness.

Foster's advanced education and specialized training include a bachelor's in criminal justice from the University of Florida; a master's in International Relations from Troy State University; Consequence Management Seminars; and the Civil Affairs and Foreign Humanitarian Assistance Planning Course. He speaks Spanish.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medals with four oak-leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medals with one oak-leaf cluster, Army Service Unit Award, National Defense Service Medals, Army Commendation Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal (Expeditionary), Armed Forces Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbons with three oak-leaf clusters, NATO Medal, Expert Infantry Badge, Ranger Tab and Senior Parachutist Badge.

He has continued to actively work in and with the Civil Affairs Regiment, playing an instrumental role in transforming the Joint CA Force at the operational and strategic levels of war. In 2011, he served as the CA subject-matter expert in support of the U.S. Special Operations Command and the U.S. Joint Forces Command Civil Affairs Capability Based Assessment, which took a critical look at CA force structure and capabilities. This strategic initiative will greatly influence the future direction of the joint CA force over the next 10 years.