

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS REGIMENT



**LIEUTENANT COLONEL
STEPHEN J. HERCZEG**

Inducted 26 October 2017



Lieutenant Colonel Stephen J. Herczeg is a native of South Bend, Indiana, and was commissioned as an Armor Officer in 1973, as the ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate at Purdue University. He served on active duty for 21 years and, upon retirement from military service, continued to serve the regiment as a civilian.

His assignments include: platoon leader, company executive officer, company commander and battalion S3 in the 3rd Bn/73rd Armor, 82nd Airborne Division; Operational Detachment Alpha commander and battalion operations officer in the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne); operational detachment commander in the 8th Bn, 4th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne); Group S3 in the 4th POG(A); PSYOP officer in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 75th Ranger Regiment; SOCOORD- HHC, III Corps; battalion commander and U.S. Central Command JPOTF Commander in the 8th Bn, 4th POG(A); and CSO Branch Chief at the U.S. Special Operations Command.

Lt. Col. Herczeg's mastery of maneuver warfare doctrine, special operations doctrine and the interagency prepared him to meet the challenges of the post-9/11 period. His understanding of the cultural aspects of Islam, the Middle East and Southwest Asia and their languages made him a formidable leader. As the Commander, 8th Psychological Operations Battalion (Airborne) and the USCENTCOM Joint Operations Task Force for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, Lt. Col. Herczeg forged a new path using very diverse media platforms, some of which were utilized for the first time. In support of OEF, he had no fewer than nine PSYOP Support Elements throughout the Middle East to coordinate support while disseminating products from platforms ranging from Commando Solo to leaflet drops, newspapers, electronic warfare and coffee houses where music cassettes with accompanying messaging were distributed. For OIF he planned, coordinated and executed PSYOP throughout the area of responsibility, shaping the information space during Phase 0 for the first time, while still continuing to support operations in Afghanistan. Lt. Col. Herczeg's troops disseminated more than 152 million print products, more than 18,000 hours of radio broadcasting and more than 200 hours of television programming during this time. After command, Lt. Col. Herczeg worked as the PSYOP Branch Chief at the Center for Special Operations at MacDill Air Force Base. He successfully assisted with the stand up the new PSYOP Branch and gained concurrence from the Joint Chiefs of Staff and interagency for two trans-regional programs, which were the first of their kind.

He holds a Master's of Science in International Relations from Troy State University and is a graduate of the Air Command and Staff College and a Bachelor's of Science in Civil Engineering from Purdue University.

After leaving active duty, Lt. Col. Herczeg worked in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence at USSOCOM as the liaison to USSOCOM and USCENTCOM J3 Directorates. Given his up-to-date experience in the information environment, he focused on strategic planning, the integration of U.S. military plans with other U.S. government agency planning and facilitating the planning of interagency/U.S. military operations.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit Medal, Distinguished Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak-leaf clusters, and the Bronze Star with Valor Device. He also has the Master Parachutist Badge, Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, Military Free Fall Parachutist Badge and Air Assault Badge.

A widower, Lt. Col. Herczeg was married to the former Sandra Jolene Macon until her untimely death in August of 2016. He is the proud father of three children: Chris, Katie and Stevie (who passed away in August 2005).