



COLONEL GARY S. YAPLE

**Chief of Staff
42d Infantry Division**

Colonel Gary S. Yaple was assigned as the Chief of Staff, 42d Infantry Division in May 2009, following his assignment as Deputy Commander, Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Colonel Yaple began his military career as a New York Army National Guardsman in the 1st Battalion 108th Infantry (Mech), 3d Brigade, 42d Infantry Division, in 1985. He earned his Infantry Officer commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at The State University of New York at Cortland in 1987. Upon completing the Infantry Officer Basic Course at Fort Benning, he returned to New York to serve as 1st Platoon Leader, Echo Company (Anti-Tank), 1st Battalion 108th Infantry (Mech). He assumed command of the same Company shortly after and held that position for five years. He completed the Armor Officer Advance Course before transferring to Headquarters and Headquarters Company. There he served in staff assignments as the Battalion Motor Officer and Intelligence Officer. He completed his last two years of service in the battalion as commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company. In March 1998, he was assigned as the Assistant Operations Officer for the 27th Infantry Brigade earning his promotion to Major later the same year. He culminated his service in this assignment after the 27th Brigade's successful 2001 rotation at the Army's Joint Readiness Training Center in Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Throughout his command and staff assignments, Colonel Yaple served concurrently on active duty from June 1992 to October 2001 as the Central-Region Commander of the New York National Guard Counterdrug Program. After this assignment, he entered the Active Guard and Reserve program and became the Operations Officer for the Government Affairs Directorate, Joint Force Headquarters - New York. He was quickly re-assigned in May 2002 to serve as the Executive Officer for The Adjutant General of New York State and promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. Colonel Yaple served in this position until December of 2003, when he transferred back to the 27th Infantry Brigade as the Executive Officer serving in this assignment until June of 2006. Colonel Yaple was subsequently selected as the Deputy Brigade Commander and promoted in March 2007, to his present grade. In 2008, he deployed to Afghanistan with the 27th Infantry Brigade where he served as Deputy Commander for Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix, headquartered in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Colonel Yaple is a graduate of the United States Army Airborne School, Infantry Officers Basic Course, Armor Officer Advanced Course, Combined Arms and Service Staff School, The United States Army Command and General Staff College and the United States Army War College.

Colonel Yapple earned his Masters in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College and a Bachelor Degree in Economics and Management Science from the State University of New York at Cortland.

AWARDS and DECORATIONS:

His awards and decorations include: The Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster; Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster; The Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters; Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Medal; The Afghanistan Campaign Medal with campaign star; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal; Army Service Ribbon; Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon; The NATO Medal; The Combat Infantryman's Badge; and the Army Parachutist Badge.