

COL Mark Warnecke began his military career in 1975 at the age of 17 as an enlisted soldier on Active Duty. He served in the 4th Battalion 9th Infantry Regiment, Arctic and Mountain Light Infantry at Fort Wainwright Alaska, and in the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson Colorado before joining the NY Army National Guard. He graduated from Officer Candidate School in 1981 and was commissioned a 2nd LT. During his career he has been an Infantry rifleman, grenadier, machine gunner, fire team leader, squad leader and Platoon Sgt. Upon his commissioning he served as a Infantry Rifle Platoon Leader, Scout Platoon Leader, Rifle Company Executive Officer, Rifle Company Commander, Infantry Battalion logistics officer, Air Operations officer, Battalion Operations Officer, Battalion Executive officer, Battalion Commander, Training Site Commander and his Current assignment as Commander of the 106th Regiment, Regional Training Institute.

COL Warnecke's Military Education includes: Basic Training. Infantry Advanced Individual Training, Primary and Basic Non Commissioned Officer Courses, Northern Warfare School Summer and Winter Phases, Air Assault, Rappel Master, Light Fighter. Light Leader. Officer Candidate School, Infantry Officer Basic Course, Infantry Officer Advanced Course, Command and General Staff College, and Battalion and Brigade Commanders Course. He has attended Fulton Montgomery Community College, the University of Alaska and SUNY Albany and holds degrees in Natural Resources Conservation and Biology.

In addition to assignments within the Continental United States he has served in Alaska, Germany, Iceland, England, Central America, Africa, and Southwest Asia. He has trained, advised or served with military forces from Canada, Germany, Ireland, England, Honduras, and Iraq.

He commanded two Infantry Battalions. The first (1st Battalion 105th Infantry) responded to the 9-11 attacks within hours of the planes striking the World Trade Center and provided security and controlled access for recovery efforts for first week after Sept 11th. He then established the initial military security for six Airports in the New York City, Long Island and lower Hudson Valley area and Commanded a variety of other security efforts during the year after the attacks

He was selected to Command a second Air Assault Infantry Battalion (2nd Battalion 108th Infantry) in Sept of 2003 within days of mobilization for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Under the Command of the 1st Infantry Division he was assigned an area of operations in the heart of the Sunni Triangle. His Battalion conducted over 75 Combat Air Assaults, 4,500 combat patrols, three downed aircraft recoveries and defeated two suicide bomber attempts. This resulted in the over 600 insurgents captured or casualties, 800 captured weapons and 4 million pounds of captured explosives.

During his career he has been awarded 26 medals, ribbons and badges including the Bronze Star Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Army Commendation Medals, the Meritorious Unit Citation, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Expert Infantry Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.