



MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD

COLONEL

CHRISTOPHER W. COOKSEY

155TH ABCT COMMANDER

Colonel Christopher Wayne Cooksey, a native of Jackson, Miss., began his military career in the United States Marine Corps as a Reconnaissance Marine with the 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He later attended the United States Army Officer Candidate School at the 11th Infantry Regiment, Fort Moore, Georgia, commissioning in the Infantry branch.

After completing initial Infantry training, he was assigned to 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team. His operational assignments include: Scout Platoon Leader, 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment; Commander of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment; Operations Officer for 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment; Executive Officer of 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment; Operations Officer for the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team; Commander of 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 198th Armored Regiment; and Deputy Commander of 66th Troop Command.

Col. Cooksey's combat and operational deployments include Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, Syria, Haiti, and multiple other countries throughout Europe and the Middle East. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal (3rd award); Army Commendation Medal (3rd award); Army Achievement Medal; Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal (1 service star); Iraq Campaign Medal (3 campaign stars); Global War on Terrorism Service and Expeditionary Medals; Armed Forces Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with M device); Marine Corps Sea Service Deployment Ribbon; and other federal and state awards. He's also been awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Ranger tab, and the Parachutist badge.

Col. Cooksey started his current role as Commander of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, headquartered in Tupelo, Miss., in April 2025, and commands seven battalions across Mississippi and Kansas.

He holds a Bachelor's of Science degree from Mississippi State University and a Masters of Science degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He is a graduate of the Dual Status Commanders Course, Joint Task Force Commanders Course, Armor Captains Career Course, U.S. Navy Scuba School, the French Foreign Legion Jungle Commando Course, and the U.S. Army SERE School Level C.