

"A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." - Proverbs 17:17

How do you say thank you for 23 years of unwavering commitment, of sacrifice, of standing shoulder to shoulder in service to something greater than ourselves?

"Thank you for your service" is a good start, but it doesn't quite capture the depth of my gratitude. Thank you for walking this path with me on one of the greatest callings of servanthood a man or woman could ever accept. In these years, we didn't just wear the same uniform, we became family. A family forged not by blood, but by purpose, adversity, and unbreakable trust. Together, we gave our best so that others could live in peace. We carried a weight that only few will ever understand, and in doing so, we earned not only our freedom, but the freedom of generations to come. I am truly indebted to each of you for what you've given to me, to my family, and to our shared legacy. We rose. We endured. We stood "High Above the Best." Essayons.

- LTC Ben L. Foland

"My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

- John F. Kennedy

"Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." - Proverbs 27:17

# RETIREMENT CEREMONY

*in honor of*

LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
BENJAMIN L. FOLAND



JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

WEDNESDAY

04 JUNE 2025

9:00 A.M.





# LIEUTENANT COLONEL BEN L. FOLAND

LTC Foland enlisted in the Mississippi Army National Guard in September 2002 and was commissioned after graduating from Officer Candidate School in March 2004. He completed U.S. Army Flight School in June 2005, earning his wings as a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot. Early in his career, he served as a Battle Captain during the Hurricane Katrina response and as a Platoon Leader with D Company, 1-185th Aviation Battalion from 2005 to 2007.

He later served as Battle Captain with HHC, 1-185th AVN BN during a deployment to Kosovo from 2007 to 2008. Following this, LTC Foland commanded HHC, 1-185th AVN BN from 2009 to 2010 and D Company, 1-185th AVN BN from 2010 to 2012, including a deployment to Iraq from 2010 to 2011.

From 2013 to 2014, he served as the S2 for HHC, 185th Aviation Brigade, followed by an assignment as the S3 for the 150th Brigade Special Troops Battalion from 2015 to 2017. He then served as Executive Officer for the 150th Brigade Engineer Battalion from 2017 to 2019, deploying to Kuwait in 2018. From 2019 to 2022, LTC Foland was the Assistant S3 for the 168th Engineer Brigade, and concurrently served as Executive Officer for the COVID-19 Joint Task Force Response from 2020 to 2021. He continued his service as S3 for the 168th Engineer Brigade from 2022 to 2024, including a deployment to Kuwait in 2023. In 2024, he assumed his current role as the Planning and Programming Branch Chief in the Facility Management Office for the Joint Force Headquarters.

In addition to his military leadership roles, LTC Foland served as a federal technician in the Facility Management Office from August 2008 to June 2024. During that time, he held key positions including Planning and Programming Branch Chief, Project Management Branch Chief, and Resource Management Branch Chief, contributing significantly to the success of facilities operations across the state.

His military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with 1 oak leaf, the Army Achievement Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the National Defense Service Medal, the Kosovo Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal w/ service star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M device and silver hour glass, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon w/ 2 oak leaf clusters, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal, the Army Aviator Badge, and various State Awards.

LTC Foland holds a Bachelor's degree in Aviation Business and a Master's degree in Elementary Education. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Flight Training Program. In addition to his aviation credentials, LTC Foland is a certified Intelligence and Engineer officer in the U.S. Army. He has also completed the Army's Advanced Operations Course, further demonstrating his commitment to professional military education and leadership excellence.

LTC Foland is married to Christina Foland and they have three children, Natalie Oxner (married to Lane Oxner and a graduate from the University of Southern Mississippi), Isabella Foland (attending University of Southern Mississippi) and Luke Foland (Attending Delta Technical College).



## SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Welcome

Entrance of the  
Official Party

National Anthem

Invocation

Recognition  
of Dignitaries and  
Family

Service History

Host's Remarks &  
Awards

Spousal Presentation

Gifts

Retirement Honoree's  
Remarks

Benediction

Departure of Official  
Party

Reception