

VETERAN OF THE MONTH

Tellico Village VFW Post 12135



Colonel (Retired) Tom Quinn, a native of Cleveland, Georgia, grew up in a household with his two brothers and attended elementary as well as High School there. Tom was an excellent athlete and accepted a football scholarship to Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC. There he also earned an ROTC scholarship from the SC National Guard. Tom graduated with a degree in Business Administration in 1988, and was named ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate.

2nd Lieutenant Quinn was commissioned in the Air Defense Artillery Corps on May 8, married his wife Betty and moved to his first assignment at Ft. Bliss Texas in July. As the launcher platoon leader in Charlie Battery, 5th Battalion (PATRIOT), 7th Air Defense Artillery, then LT Quinn was part of the 10th and last PATRIOT Battalion to activate in the United States and move to Germany to be integrated into the NATO order of battle. During the NATO evaluation, his platoon received all excellent evaluations. Later during that tour, the Battalion deployed to Dammam, Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm and Operation Determined Resolve.

During Major Quinn's assignment to Third U.S. Army / Army Forces Central Command, he was deployed as the C1 for personnel operations for the Coalition and Joint Task Force Kuwait which consisted of US Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard servicemembers as well as International and Coalition Forces. During Operation's Desert Thunder and Desert Fox they supported air strikes to enforce the no-fly zone in Southern Iraq and ensure Iraq's compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions. As the executive officer to United States Army Europe G1 and Deputy Commanding General United States Army North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), LTC Quinn had the unique opportunity to support and escort numerous United Services Organization (USO) entertainers, such as Toby Keith, Charlie Daniels, Montgomery Gentry and Sawyer Brown, to numerous Southwest Asia

countries including Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, boosting morale for all deployed U.S. service members.

During his assignment to the US Army Human Resources Command, COL Quinn's accomplishments were adopted throughout the Department of Defense. Through his tutelage, the Army's Career and Alumni program was expanded and refocused to help transitioning soldiers, providing them the tools and confidence to succeed in civilian life. Tom's vision, stewardship and collaboration skills resulted in the Army approving policy for awarding the Purple Heart for concussive injuries – a major breakthrough in recognizing non-visible battlefield injuries. His impact extended throughout the Department of Defense (DoD) and became the standard for all the Military Services.

In COL Quinn's last assignment as the J1 Director of Manpower, Personnel and Administration Directorate, Headquarters United States European Command, his strategic contributions left a positive impact with the United States credibility across the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Nations. These contributions supported over 100,000 service members, Department of Defense civilians and family members spanning over 80 organizations and 50 countries.

His academic portfolio consists of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business from Presbyterian College, Clinton, S.C, a Master of Business Administration degree from Touro University International, and a Master of Science Degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He is a graduate of the Air Defense Officer Basic Course, the Adjutant General's Corps Officer Advance Course, the Combined Arms Services Staff School, the Army Command and General Staff College and the Army War College.

Colonel (Retired) Quinn's awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (6 oak leaf clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (2 oak leaf clusters), Joint Meritorious Unit Award (1 oak leaf cluster), Army Superior Unit Award, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal and the Parachutist Badge. He was also recently selected to the 2020 class of the Adjutant General's Corps Distinguished Members of the Corps.