

COL Danny R. McKnight, USA (Ret.)

Colonel Danny R. McKnight, U.S. Army, Retired, was born in Columbus, Georgia...moved to Rockledge, Florida in 1959...graduated from Cocoa High School in 1969 and Brevard Community College in 1971. He was a Distinguished Military Graduate from Florida State University in 1973, where he earned a BS Degree in Management. In 1985, Danny earned his Masters Degree in Higher Education from the University of Florida while assigned as an Assistant Professor of Military Science in the ROTC Department. Among his numerous military assignments were the following:

- Executive Officer, 3rd Ranger Battalion, Fort Benning, GA
- Executive Officer, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, GA
- Battalion Commander, 4th Battalion 27th Infantry, Schofield Barracks, HI
- Battalion Commander, 3rd Ranger Battalion, Fort Benning, GA
- Student, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA
- Chief of Staff, First U.S. Army, Fort Gillem, GA

His military career also included combat duty on two occasions – Panama 1989 and Somalia 1993 (basis for the Book and Movie “Black Hawk Down”). Colonel McKnight’s awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit (2 awards), the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman’s Badge, the Ranger Tab, the Master Parachutist Badge with Combat Star, and the Pathfinder Badge. After completing 28 and one-half years of service to our country, Colonel McKnight returned to his hometown in Florida. He has served in two Homeland Security related positions in Brevard County...as the Homeland Security Coordinator for the County’s Emergency Management Office, then as the Homeland Security Training Coordinator in the Criminal Justice Center at Brevard Community College. Colonel McKnight now focuses all his efforts on being a nationwide motivational speaker. He and his wife, Linda, reside in Rockledge, Florida.

Colonel McKnight brings his experience to others through his presentation that provides a better understanding of the unparalleled commitment and leadership required to be successful when executing operations in the most difficult and severe situations. Many key values associated with successful leadership will be highlighted and referenced throughout the presentation. The real world experiences associated with his involvement in the event of October 1993 in Mogadishu, Somalia, will be expounded on to relate the commitment and leadership necessary to achieve mission success.