

Colonel Mark Ray returned to the United States Army Special Operations Command in 2019, assuming the position as Director of the Command's Human Performance and Wellness program. He and his staff are responsible for designing, implementing, and integrating the holistic human performance and wellness efforts for 35,000 Army Special Operations Force Soldiers and their 56,000 Family members. These efforts consist of understanding the challenges of and creating solutions oriented toward physiological performance optimization, mental and cognitive skill enhancement, social preparedness and spiritual wellness.

Ray previously served four years in the Army West Point Athletic Department, as the Department's Military Deputy Athletic Director. In this role, he was the principle military advisor for the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, integrating the Athletic Department's activities with the military and academic programs of the Academy. He was a member of the staff of Senior Associate Athletic Directors, and responsible for the integration of cadet-athlete academic and military performance with Division 1 athletics participation; managing the government Human and Financial Resources of the department; facility construction, renovations and maintenance; information technology, NCAA compliance, collegiate licensing and retail sales. Most importantly, he had the privilege of serving as a close teammate and mentor to the hundreds of cadets, coaches, staff and faculty that he worked alongside, helping to foster a winning culture as these young men and women trained and prepared to become officers in the United States Army.

Ray was commissioned as a U.S. Army Infantry officer in 1996 upon graduation from the United States Military Academy. After serving as a platoon leader in the 82nd Airborne Division and the 18th Airborne Corps Long Range Surveillance Company, he was selected into and completed qualification training in the Special Forces branch. Over the course of 20 years in Special Operations, Colonel Ray has served in the 5th Special Forces Group and has commanded throughout the United States Army Special Operations Command at every level from Detachment to Battalion, in addition to various staff positions. He has participated in Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and New Dawn, and has served in the Middle East, Africa, and Europe.

Born in Washington, D.C. and raised in Virginia, Ray has been stationed at various Army installations in North Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, Kansas, New

York and Pennsylvania. He has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Systems Engineering from the US Military Academy, a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College, and a Master of Science in Sports Science from Lock Haven University.

He and his wife of 25 years, Tracy, have three children- daughter Harper, and sons, Mark, Jr. and Jack.