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Promotion to Lieutenant Colonel – New Areas of Interest

January 10, 2020 – North Carolina National Guard Joint Force Headquarters – Raleigh, NC

Today, Major Neil Edgar was recognized for his growth, progression and contributions to the United States Army by being promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. The ceremony was well attended by members of his immediate family, a large contingent of fellow employees at Cisco Systems, superior officers and fellow soldiers.

Major Merrill opened the ceremony with an introduction and summary of Neil's accomplishments:

“Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the promotion ceremony for MAJ Neil Edgar.

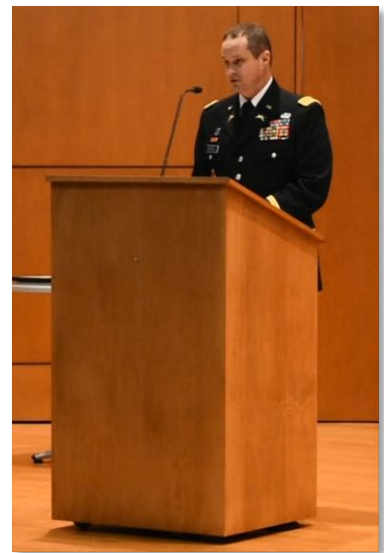
MAJ Edgar received his commission from the North Carolina Military Academy in August of 2005. As a Lieutenant, he served as an Infantry Officer with Company F, 425th Infantry, Airborne, Long Range Surveillance, at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, in Selfridge, Michigan. He held the positions of Platoon Leader and Executive Officer. In 2009 he deployed with Company F to Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While stationed at Forward Operating Base Sykes in Northern Iraq, he led the men of Company F while they conducted border-interdiction, reconnaissance, surveillance and time-sensitive

targeting missions. 150 men of Company F deployed to Iraq. In 2010, 150 men returned home.

Soon after returning from Iraq, he transitioned back to North Carolina and branch-transferred to Intelligence. His most notable achievement as a North Carolina Guardsman, was serving as the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team S2 during a deployment to Kosovo in 2015. He successfully led a 72-soldier intelligence section in a complex operating environment. During the rotation he was responsible for briefing General Officers, and worked routinely with the US Embassy in Kosovo, the US Embassy in Macedonia, the Kosovo Security Forces and the Kosovo Police.

During his career, MAJ Edgar completed the following schools and courses to refine his tactical leadership skills and staff capabilities:

Airborne School, Air Assault School, Pathfinder School, the Sniper Leaders Course, Jumpmaster School, the Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leaders Course, the National



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Guard Joint Staff Training Course, Defense Support of Civil Authorities Course, and most recently, the Command and General Staff Officer Course.

His awards include the following:

The Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Reserve Component Achievement Medal with 4 Oak-leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 'M' Device and Bronze Hour Glass, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Service Medal, Michigan State Broadsword, Michigan State War on Terrorism Ribbon, Michigan State OCONUS Ribbon, North Carolina National Guard Service Ribbon, Senior Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Pathfinder Badge.

There was one very special guest in attendance who was invited to be an integral part of the ceremony. Neil's father, WWII Navy veteran, Seaman Second Class Howard Donald Edgar, Jr., US Navy Gunboat PGM-28 – Asia Pacific Theater, proudly stood by his son.

Major Merrill continued:

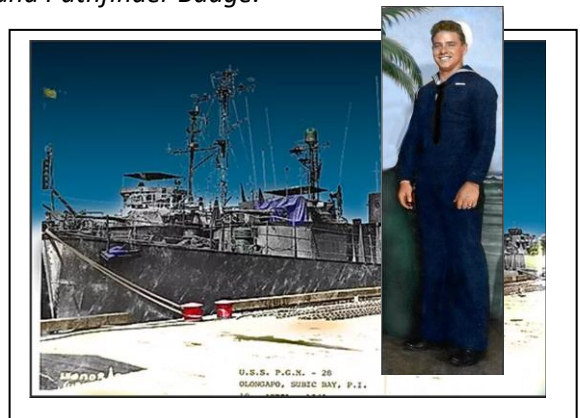
MAJ Neil Edgar and his Father, Howard Edgar will now come forward, accompanied by the North Carolina Army National Guard Chief of Staff, COL Wes Morrison who will Administer the Oath of Office.

Major Neil Eric Edgar to Colonel Morrison:

"I, Neil Eric Edgar, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

COL Morrison: "Publish the Order"

MAJ Merrill: "Attention to Orders!"



The Secretary of the Army has reposed special trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, fidelity, and professional excellence of Neil E. Edgar.

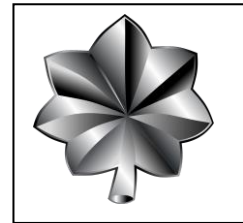
In view of these qualities, his demonstrated leadership potential, and dedicated service to the North Carolina Army National Guard, he is therefore promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. The promotion is effective 07 November 2019.

Signed,

Charles Lingel

Colonel, United States Army

It is the 23rd rank in the United States Army , ranking above Major and directly below Colonel. A Lieutenant Colonel generally serves as a Battalion Commander of a battalion consisting of 300 to 1,000 soldiers. As a Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonels are assisted by one or more Majors, many junior non-commissioned officers, and a Command Sergeant Major as principal enlisted advisor. A Lieutenant Colonel may also serve as an Executive Officer or Staff Officer in a variety of high-level units or command posts.



It will generally take an officer 16 to 22 years to rise to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. As a result, many career officers who are eligible to retire after 20 years of active service retire with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.



A Proud Father and a Son Continuing the Tradition

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The Cisco Team



The NCNG Team



The Family Team

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Joining the Space Cadre

Army Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence

The Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence is the U.S. Army's force modernization proponent, responsible for managing Army change to doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, facilities and policy, or DOTMLPF-P, requirements for space, global ballistic missile defense and high altitude capabilities within the Army. It also represents Army equities across the joint community. Within the capabilities of Army and joint space, missile defense and high altitude, the Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence trains and educates agile, adaptive and ready Soldiers and leaders, executes life-cycle management for U.S. Army space operations officers, develops the Army space cadre and enables informed decision-making.



To carry out its mission, the Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence executes U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command-established practices to meet force management responsibilities. This includes performing concept development, capabilities determination and capabilities integration relative to DOTMLPF-P for process change, integration and transition for materiel development. Additionally, the organization executes the Army's institutional training and education for space and global ballistic missile defense mission areas. It is uniquely organized and geographically well-positioned to meet future Army needs.

Space Command Headquarters

The initial headquarters for the Pentagon's new Space Command is located at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. The command officially started operations September 2019 at the base.

President Donald Trump formally launched Space Command in December 2018. The goal was to improve the organization of U.S. military space operations and accelerate technical developments.



It was established amid growing concerns that China and Russia are working on ways to disrupt or destroy U.S. satellites.

Space Command will draw elements from across the services. It will have the same status as other headquarters such as U.S. Cyber Command, Special Operations Command and Strategic Command.

Several space operations are already based in the Colorado Springs area including the 50th Space Wing, which operates more than 185 military satellites; the 21st Space Wing, which provides missile warnings; the North American Aerospace Defense Command or NORAD; and the famous underground bunker in Cheyenne Mountain. The Colorado Springs area is also home to the U.S. Air Force Academy and Fort Carson, which has infantry, helicopter and Stryker vehicle units.

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Beautiful Colorado Springs is also the home of the Space Foundation Museum and the WWII Aviation Museum.



July 2020 - Army Space and Missile Defense School - The Army's Space and Missile Defense School in Colorado Springs, Colorado, established in 2010 to train and educate forces and develop doctrine to support combatant commands, has evolved.

There was once just a single course for Functional Area 40, a career field for space operations officers. Today, the school has 22 different courses and provides support to combat training centers and a variety of exercises.



The 2019 version of the, says space is no longer a small part of joint operations. “Unified land operations and joint space capabilities are indivisible. The Army depends on space capabilities to enable and enhance land warfare,” the field manual says. “Virtually every Army and joint operation benefits from these capabilities.”

The school has three training divisions. One focuses on the tactical level for home stations and combat training centers, providing a training environment that features a live environment with contested global positioning. A second division focuses on missile defense training for radar detection, supporting combatant commands. The third division provides foundational training for newly assigned space cadre.

This is important work, said Daryl Breitbach, the school's director. “Space and missile defense capabilities are an integral part of all Army operations down to the lowest tactical level. Soldiers rely on space,” he said. “As the Army moves to multidomain operations, integrated missile defense and the space domain provide critical capabilities and effects to enable ground operations.”

Training focus areas “are unique one-of-a-kind missions, critically important to the command, the Army and the nation,” the field manual says.

“Space has direct impact on all the warfighting functions, so it is important that space is integrated into all levels of Army training and education,” said Lt. Col. Mike Smith, deputy commandant at the Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence, which includes the school. “Whether it's initial entry training, Basic Officer Leaders Course, Warrant Officer Basic Course, [Command and General Staff College], Sergeants Major Academy or the War College, it is critical to get space education taught throughout the Army so everyone understands it, but more importantly, integrates into operations.”

LTC Edgar successfully completed the Army Space Cadre Basic Course at the Army Space and Missile Defense School, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, CO. It was an intensive two-week course that covered Orbital Mechanics, Satellite Communications, Imagery, Intelligence, Weather (space and terrestrial), Global Positioning Systems, Missile Warning and Defense, etc.....all that is space.

The course provides a basic knowledge of space capabilities and how they enable the Warfighter. This course focuses on space capabilities, limitations and vulnerabilities in the context of full spectrum

operations as well as military operations in an environment where space capabilities are degraded or contested.

The course fulfills a congressional mandate that directed all of the different services to come up with a space cadre. The Army, the largest user of space-based capabilities in the military, formalized an Army space cadre that consists of officers, enlisted and civilian personnel. Cadre functions include planning, developing, acquiring, integrating, and operating space forces, applications and capabilities. The Army Space Personnel Development Office develops policies, procedures and metrics for the Army space cadre and executes life-cycle management functions of FA40 space operations officers ensuring the Army has trained personnel to meet national security space needs.

Now space qualified, LTC Edgar is awarded the '3Y' Skill Identifier. "3Y - Space Enablers" are Army personnel who perform unique space tasks or functions or may require specialized skills to apply space capabilities.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CERTIFICATE OF TRAINING

This is to certify that

LTC NEIL E. EDGAR

has successfully completed

ARMY SPACE CADRE BASIC COURSE PHASE 1 & 2

Class 20-008
13 – 24 JULY 2020
(80 Hours)

Given at: Colorado Springs, CO



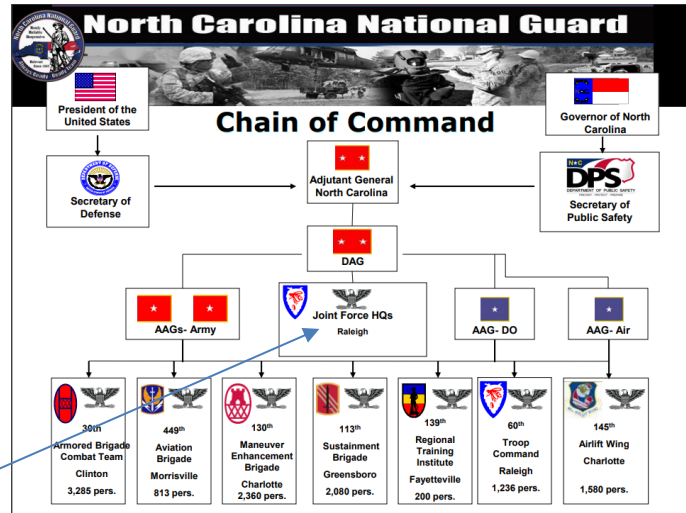
DARYL D. BREITBACH
Director, Space and Missile Defense School
Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence

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North Carolina State 'G2' -

Since the Space Cadre Course and shortly after promotion to LTC, Neil was assigned as the North Carolina State 'G2' – the top Intelligence officer in the State responsible for maintaining readiness of their Intelligence War-Fighting function.

Army Space Cadre members at the LTC level are charged with integrating space capabilities and space planning considerations into the Military Decision-Making Process (MDMP). As the only field-grade officer at the NC Joint Forces HQ who is space qualified, LTC Edgar's main initiative as the State G2 is to establish a Space Support Element (SSE) at the State level that could attach to North Carolina Major Subordinate Commands as they deploy. The purpose of the SSE is to advise and assist the deploying commander on all things 'space' (imagery, intelligence, communications, GPS, etc). LTC Edgar's proposal to establish the SSE was approved by the Future Force Structure Committee and the NC Army National Guard will see its first space-coded billets in 2024. This legacy will provide additional training and career broadening opportunities for the Soldiers who come after him.



North Carolina National Guard

Joint Force Headquarters Raleigh

Responsible for the Strategic Direction and Daily Operations of the North Carolina National Guard to include: administrative, logistical, planning, organizing and equipping all units in the state. JFHQ is the Mission Command Center for disaster response.

Icing on the Cake

Taking the Space Cadre Basic Training Course accomplished a goal that was set many years before. Now “space qualified”, it was time to reach for the stars. On November 24, 2021, LTC Neil Edgar was awarded his private pilot’s license.



He is now roaming the skies where his family-veterans served their country.

... and, the sky is no longer the limit



LTC Thomas Knowlton Award

Thomas W. Knowlton (November 22, 1740 – September 16, 1776) was an American patriot who served in the French and Indian War and was a colonel during the American Revolution serving under Gen. George Washington. Knowlton is considered America's first Intelligence professional, and his unit, Knowlton's Rangers, gathered intelligence during the early Revolutionary War. Pictured here conferring with Nathan Hale and General Washington, Knowlton was killed in action at the Battle of Harlem Heights.



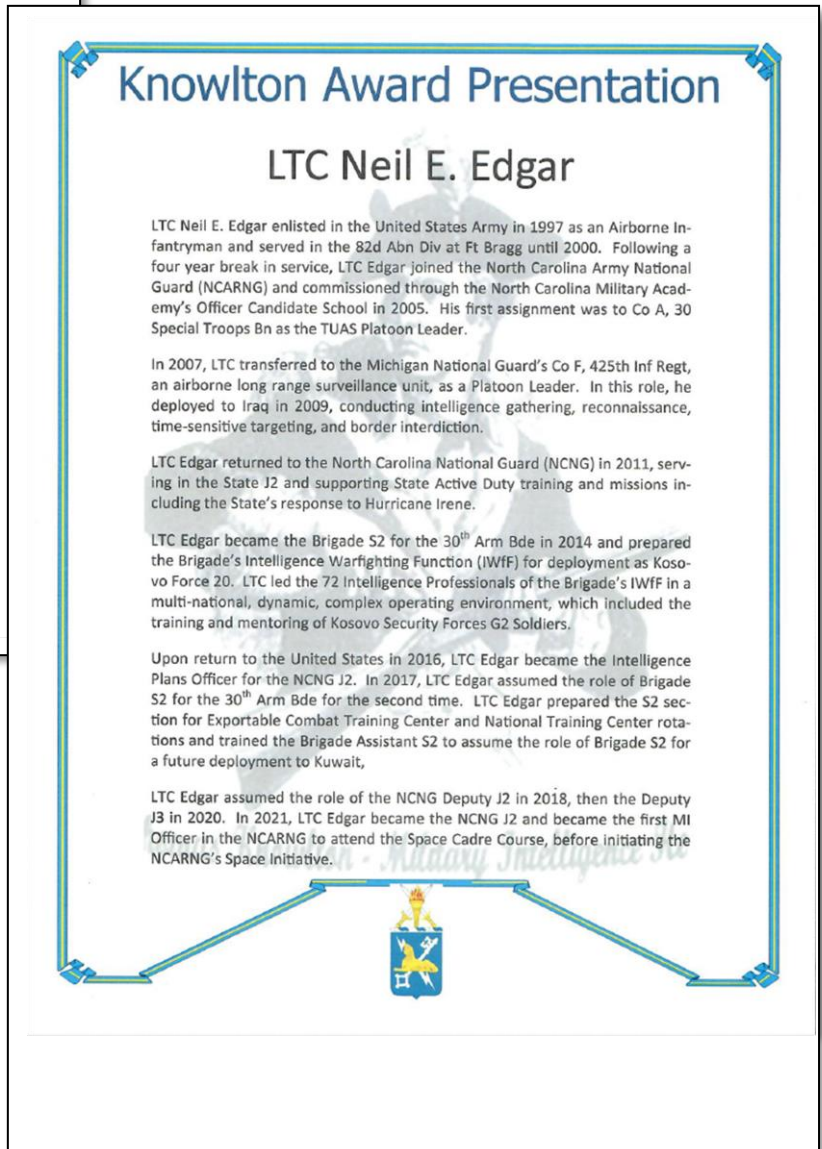
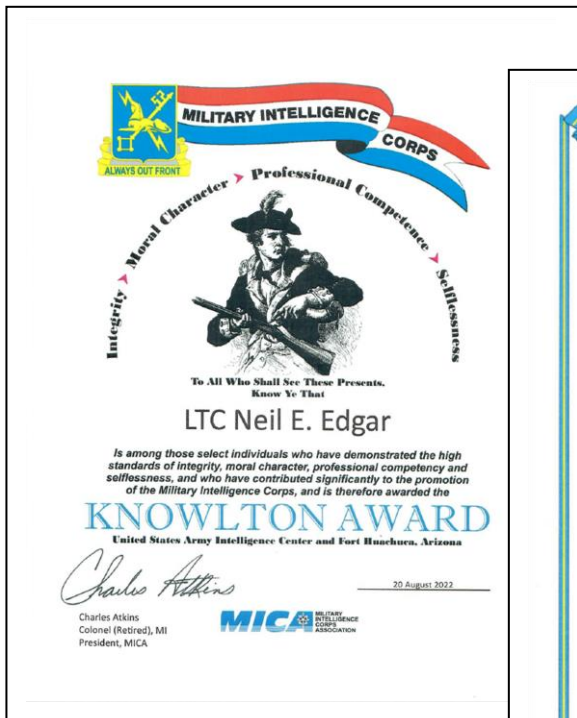
In 1995 the Military Intelligence Corps Association established the **LTC Thomas W. Knowlton Award**. As Knowlton and his Raiders made significant contributions to the war effort during the American Revolution, as such; these awardees are recognized for making significant contributions to the promotion of Army Military Intelligence for the MI Corps. during their careers.

The Knowlton Award recognizes individuals whose contributions stand out in the eyes of the recipients, their superiors, subordinates and peers. These individuals also demonstrate the highest standards of integrity and moral character, display an outstanding degree of professional competence, and serve the MI Corps with distinction.

When LTC Edgar was in Iraq with Co F 425th Infantry, Airborne, Long Range Surveillance, his group was engaged in leading small groups of soldiers on daring long range reconnaissance missions much as LTC Thomas Knowlton did for General Washington.

Being nominated by his peers and subordinates for his lifetime achievements was a significant honor for LTC Neil Edgar and a testament of their respect for his knowledge and leadership.





The War In Ukraine

September 9, 2022 - The world continues to be a tumultuous place as 2022 continues forward. The need for intelligence and preparedness has never been more acute. LTC Edgar and his staff are spending most of their time briefing the NC Guard Senior Leadership on the events in Ukraine. Recently, he lead the Joint Staff at North Carolina Joint Forces Headquarters through a Reverse Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield Exercise. This included a summary of Russia's demonstrated strength and weakness and leading the Joint Staff through a planning exercise as if WE were going to fight Russia. How would we exploit their weakness, counter their strength, and mitigate potential risk? The exercise was well received by the Joint Staff and LTC Edgar was commended by the Chief of Staff for a job well done, once again.

As a well-executed career continues to contribute to national preparedness, let us hope we find peace.

What's Next?



In addition to fulfilling his obligations and duties as Lieutenant Colonel and G2 for the State of North Carolina, training begins again in March of 2023. LTC Neil Edgar will start the rigorous Information Operations Officer Course described earlier on pages 167-171. The completion of that course of training and four years in grade will qualify him for consideration for the rank of Colonel.

Colonel is the senior field-officer grade commissioned officer rank, directly above Lieutenant Colonel and below Brigadier General. Colonels typically command a brigade-sized unit consisting of 3,000 to 5,000 soldiers, with the assistance of several junior commissioned officers and a Command Sergeant Major as a primary non-commissioned officer advisor. Colonels may also be responsible for leading division-level special agencies.

Colonels are selected by a board of superior offices based on the career performance as recorded in their officer evaluation reports collected over time.

