

COLONEL LEONARD J. BAKLARZ

DIRECTOR, FUNCTIONAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION



Colonel Leonard “Lee” J. Baklarz was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and raised in Rockville, Maryland. He earned a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice, graduating cum laude, from Roger Williams University and was commissioned in May 2005 through the ROTC program into the Armor branch as a second lieutenant. He later earned a Master of Strategic Studies, with distinction, from the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. Most recently, he earned a Master of Science in National Security and Resource Strategy and was a distinguished graduate from Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy.

COL Baklarz currently serves as the Director, Functional Management Division (FMD), Integrated Personnel and Pay System - Army (IPPS-A). He previously served at IPPS-A from 2018–2023 as the Release 2 Sustainment Branch Chief, and Deputy, Release 3 Design, Test, Deployment, and Sustainment team, which successfully replaced legacy systems and processes with innovative HR, pay, and talent management capabilities for over 1 million Soldiers in the U.S. Army.

After commissioning in May 2005, COL Baklarz was assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, at Fort Benning, Georgia. There, he served as a tank platoon leader and executive officer for Delta Company, 2nd Battalion,

69th Armor Regiment, from January 2006–December 2008. During this assignment, he deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, from March 2007–May 2008 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He then transitioned to the Adjutant General Corps and was assigned to 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat team, 82nd Airborne Division, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he served as the Battalion S1 from October 2009–May 2012. During this tenure, he served in two no-notice deployments: first to Haiti for Operation Unified Response from January–March 2010, and then to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom from April–August 2010. He later deployed to Iraq from May–November 2011 in support of Operation New Dawn.

From June 2012–June 2015, COL Baklarz was assigned to Human Resources Command at Fort Knox, Kentucky, where he served as an account manager and assignment officer. He then served as the Group S1 for the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Lewis, Washington, from July 2016–July 2018, during which time he participated in four major Korea Theater Warfighter Exercises.

He then served as the Deputy Chief of Staff, G1, for the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia, from 2023–2025. During this time, he deployed with the 3rd Infantry Division to Poland for nine months to support and reassure our North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies against Russian aggression.

His military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal (2nd Award), the Meritorious Service Medal (5th Award), the Army Commendation Medal with Valor, the Army Commendation Medal (2nd Award), the Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.

He is the son of two Navy veterans. He has four siblings, one of whom is also a veteran, and two brothers-in-law who currently serve as Army officers. Lee and his wife, Valaire (Zucconi) Baklarz, are the proud parents of Caroline, James, John, and Genevieve.