

**BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES R. BLACKBURN**  
**Deputy Commanding General,**  
**United States Army North (Fifth Army)**



Brigadier General Blackburn assumed duties as the Deputy Commanding General of United States Army North (Fifth Army) on 4 January 2016. He most recently served as the Deputy Commanding General (Maneuver) of 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division at Fort Stewart Georgia.

Brigadier General Blackburn graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1986 as a distinguished military graduate, and was commissioned an Armor Officer through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). He holds a Master of Science Degree in National Security from the U.S. Naval War College, a Masters of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh.

Brigadier General Blackburn's assignments include the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment during the fall of the Soviet Socialist Republic, and the 1st Cavalry Division for operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He also served in Kosovo with the 3rd Infantry Division, and again with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment where he commanded 1st Squadron, "Ironhorse" as part of Multi-National Division Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Brigadier General Blackburn is the 75th Colonel of the 2D Cavalry Regiment "Dragoons" commanding the Regiment in Afghanistan as part of the International Security Assistance Force.

Brigadier General Blackburn's other assignments include Headquarters, Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, VA; Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe, Mons, Belgium; twice with the Operations Group, National Training Center, Ft. Irwin, CA; Headquarters, Forces Command, Fort Bragg, NC; as the Joint Operations Division Chief, The Joint Staff, Washington, D.C; and as a Deputy Commanding General with the ISAF Joint Command.

Brigadier General Blackburn is the recipient of the Defense Superior Service Medal (with one Oak Leaf Cluster), Legion of Merit (with two Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), Combat Action Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge, as well as a number of other personal and unit awards.

