

LTC GARY A. HUGHES

Commander



LTC Gary Hughes began his military career when he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a Combat Signaler (31K). He was assigned to the 507th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) and deployed with the 507th for service in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Lieutenant Colonel Hughes temporarily left Army service in 1992 when he was awarded an R.O.T.C. Scholarship to attend the Indiana University of Pennsylvania as an undergraduate. He graduated a Distinguished Military Graduate and Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Science. He was awarded a scholarship under the Army Health Professions Scholarship Program and earned his Doctorate of Optometry in 2000 at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry.

LTC Hughes then returned to active duty service as the 82nd Airborne Division Optometrist, Fort Bragg, NC. While serving in the 82nd, he deployed for Stabilization Force 10 in Tuzla Base, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and for Operation Enduring Freedom in Kandahar, Afghanistan. From 2003-2006 he simultaneously served as the Chief of Optometry and the Headquarters Detachment Commander at the Lawrence Joel Army Health Clinic, Fort McPherson, GA. He was selected by the Army Surgeon General to manage the careers of over 700 officers in seven medical specialties as an Assignment Officer at Human Resources Command, Fort Knox, KY. In 2014-15, he led nine education programs as the Department Chair of Nursing and Specialty Medical Services at the Medical Education and Training Campus, Joint Base San Antonio, TX.

LTC Hughes is a graduate of the Army-Baylor Healthcare Administration Master's Degree Program and a graduate of the Command and General Staff College, Intermediate Level Education resident course, Fort Leavenworth, KS. He instructed ophthalmic programs at the Army Medical Department Center and School and the Medical Education and Training Campus, Fort Sam Houston, TX.

His awards include the Army Meritorious Service Medal (three oak leaf clusters); the Army Commendation Medal (two oak leaf clusters); and the Army Achievement Medal (with oak leaf cluster). He has earned the Combat Medic, Parachutist and Air Assault Badges and he achieved the 5K Instructor, 3H Joint Planner, and 6Z Strategic Studies Graduate, Additional Skill Identifiers. He is a member of the Order of Military Merit and a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.