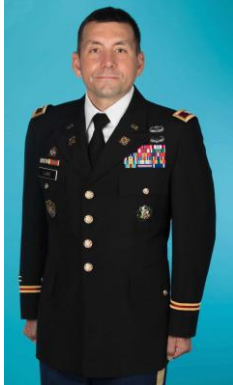


Colonel (retired) Charles C. Luke

Class of 1997

Enshrined 2026



Colonel Luke graduated from Xavier University in 1997 with a history degree. As a student, he was a member of the Pershing Rifles, while being on the crew and sailing teams. While at Xavier, he volunteered for the Big Brother/Big Sister organization. As a senior year, he was the Battalion XO and received a Regular Army commission in the Ordnance Corps.

Luke's first assignment was with the 22nd Army Support Group (ASG), in Vincenza, Italy, serving as the Bn Motor Officer, Executive Officer, and S-3 Operations Officer, during which he was deployed to Kosovo. In 2003, he was assigned to the 3rd Brigade, 100th Training Division in Lexington, KY, as the Assistant S-3 and later as a Troop Commander. In that position, he deployed to Iraq, embedded with a Multi-National Transition Team for 10 months as Logistics Officer. He led regular convoys across Iraq while under fire.

In 2006, Luke was transferred to the 9th Regional Support Command in Hawaii as its Maintenance Officer and executed joint exercises in Indonesia, India, Japan, Alaska, and Germany. While there, he led exercises in the jungles of Jakarta. In 2009, he was assigned to the 84th Training Command, at Fort Knox, as Assistant G-3. In 2010, he was transferred to the Human Resource Command at Fort Knox as the G-35 Strategic Plans Officer. In 2011 he deployed to Iraq under the US Forces Iraq J-5 to plan and execute the draw down. In 2012 he attended the Army Strategist Qualification course.

In 2013, Luke was assigned to the US Army Africa Command, stationed in Vincenza, Italy, as a G-5 Plans Officer. Upon promotion, he served as the J5 for SETAF's Operation United Assistance JTF, leading US-Italian Libyan training efforts and deployed to Burkina Faso. In 2015, he was again assigned to the Human Resources Command, as Chief of the Readiness Branch. In 2018, he was transferred to the Pentagon G-1, as Chief, Strategic Initiatives Group, primarily writing of the Army People Strategy, meeting regularly with the Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff of the Army. 2019, he was a Fellow at MIT's Seminar XXI: Foreign Politics, International Relations, and the National Interest, with a follow-on as a Senior Service College Fellow at the University of Louisville. In 2021, he again returned to Fort Knox in the Human Resource Command as the G3, and in 2023, he assumed the position of Director, Force Shaping Directorate, a general officer billet.

Colonel Luke's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, among many more awards and battle ribbons. He has also earned the Parachutist Badge and Air Assault Badge.

Colonel Luke earned his master's degree in diplomacy from Norwich University in 2006. He is a member of the Adjutant General Corps Regimental Association and has been honored as a Kentucky Colonel. He has written or been a lead writer on US Army manning and people strategy publications and policy. Additionally, he sponsors Xavier cadets who come to Fort Knox for Advance Summer Camp.

Colonel Luke retired in March 2025 and is volunteering as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) representing children in the court and foster care system. In addition, he is an active member of American Legion Post 126 in Morehead Kentucky, while working in support of veteran suicide causes.