

COL John M. Dunn
Class of 1996
Enshrined 2023



John M. Dunn graduated from Xavier University in 1996. As a cadet and a student, he was a member of the Ranger Challenge team, MS III Commander during 1st semester and the S-3 in the 2nd semester of his senior year. He was selected for the Xavier Order of Military Merit and designated a Distinguished Military Graduate. Additionally, he was involved in the Student Government as a student.

He received his commission in the Military Police and served his first 5 months as Xavier's Gold Bar Recruiter. Upon leaving Xavier, he completed the Military Police Basic Course at Fort McClellan, followed by an assignment in Korea with the 55th MP Company as a platoon leader. Upon returning to the United States, he was assigned to the 716th MP Battalion at Fort Campbell, in support of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), again as a Platoon Leader and, with his promotion to Captain, as the Battalion S-4.

John transitioned to the US Army Reserves in 2000, serving as a staff officer in the 478th Engineer Battalion. He also enrolled in Salmon P. Chase Law School at Northern Kentucky University. He took a leave of absence from law school because his unit was part of the initial invasion of Iraq in 2003, providing support to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

During the initial invasion of Iraq, the 478th Engineer Battalion spent 33 days of heavy combat clearing minefields, building robust bridges and destroying Iraqi army bunkers for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force – all which earned them the Presidential Unit Citation (Navy). After his deployment, he returned to school and successfully completed law school at NKU. Also, during this time, he took command of Echo Company, 2nd Bn, 397th Inf Bn, part of the 100th Training Division. In 2005, he rendered life-saving aid to victims of an automobile accident and was recognized by the Division Commander. His unit was moved from the 100th to the 98th, then the 95th Divisions. He assumed command of the 2nd Squadron, 398th Cav Regt in 2012. His successful command was followed by an assignment as the S-3, 3rd Brigade, 95th Training Division.

In 2014, he returned to the Military Police Regiment, assuming command of the 159th MP Bn (CID), where he led criminal investigations for two years. Following his battalion command, he was the Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer under the 76th Operational Response Command. He was promoted to Colonel and was selected as a resident to the National War College, the only reservist selected within his year group.

He mobilized again in 2019, serving as an Operations Officer and Foreign Military Sales Case Manager in support of the US Army Security Assistant Program, helping Saudi students scheduled to attend MP schools. Colonel Dunn currently serves as Commander, 290th Military Police Brigade.

John has been recognized with many awards and decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal (6 OLC), Army Commendation Medal (3 OLC), and Army Achievement Medal (4 OLC), among many others. He earned his Air Assault, Parachute, and German Proficiency badges.

While continuing to serve in the Reserves, he has been active in many bar and legal organizations. He is a past President of Chase Law School Alumni and past Board member of the American Cancer Society Board of Advisors of Hamilton County. He is also a member of the Association of the US Army and the Reserve Officers Association.

