



COLONEL GARY L. MCGINNIS

Program Manager

Ministry of Interior – Military Assistance Group, Saudi Arabia

Colonel Gary McGinnis has an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology with the University of New York and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Montreat College, North Carolina. He is also a graduate of the US Army War College resident program with a Master's degree in Strategic Studies.

With over 30 years in the military and 25 years of active duty experience, he currently serves as Program Manager for the Ministry of Interior – Military Assistance Group (MOI-MAG) in Saudi Arabia.



A native of Stanley, N.C., Colonel McGinnis enlisted in the United States Army on Oct. 8, 1981 as an infantryman with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C. During his enlisted career, he deployed to Germany during Exercise REFORGER and to Turkey for Operation Display Determination. In 1983, he deployed to Grenada for combat operations during Operation Urgent Fury.

In 1991, Colonel McGinnis was selected to attend the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga. and was commissioned as an artillery officer. Following his initial assignments with the U. S. Army Reserves and the Army National Guard, he served as an operations officer specializing in anti-terrorism and force protection with XVIII Airborne Corps during his deployments to Kuwait, Korea and Iraq. During this time, he served on active duty at every echelon from platoon and battery operations to coalition warfare with Multi-National Forces.

In 2007, after completing his assignment as a Brigade Combat Team executive officer, Colonel McGinnis served as a J5 Branch Chief and program manager for a newly developed business intelligence program for the National Guard Bureau. He also served as the J5 military liaison to Moldova and Botswana in support of the NATO Partners in Peace Program. During a NATO deployment, he trained a Moldovan Army Battalion on international peace keeping and stability operations within the heavily contested Transdnistria border areas with Russia.

From 2010-2013, Colonel McGinnis trained and commissioned U.S. Army officers while serving as a TRADOC ROTC professor of military science for a 23 college and university consortium at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte. During this assignment, he taught military leadership and managed Army scholarships and Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) Programs to help young leaders develop cultural awareness and build foreign language proficiency skills.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, three Meritorious Service Medals, five Army Commendation Medals, Joint Service Achievement Medal, five Army Achievement Medals, the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Combat Action Badge.

Colonel McGinnis and his wife have three adult married children and four grandchildren.