

Colonel Michael Bell

Colonel Michael S. Bell, U.S. Army, serves as the Director, Commanding General's Initiatives Group, U.S. Central Command. Prior to this assignment, Colonel Bell served in Baghdad as the Director, Commanding General's Initiatives Group, Multi-National Force-Iraq.

Since his graduation from the United States Military Academy in 1983, Colonel Bell has served with armor and mechanized infantry units in a variety of command and staff positions in Europe, the continental United States, and Southwest Asia. He also served on the faculty at the United States Military Academy as an assistant professor of history and as a Special Assistant to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Europe/Peace Stabilisation Force. From 2001-2003, he commanded a fully-digitized M1A2 armor battalion task force.

Following battalion command, he was assigned as strategist, Strategy Division, the Directorate of Strategic Plans and Policy (J5), the Joint Staff, where his projects included the development of the 2004 National Military Strategy and 2005 National Defense Strategy, lead writer for 2005 National Military Strategic Plan for the War on Terrorism, and team member writer for the Kuwait Strategic Review and lead writer for Kuwait's National Security and Defense Strategy and the National Military Strategy of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces. During the Quadrennial Defense Review, he analyzed Defense reform and roles, missions, and organizations.

In 2006 and 2007, Colonel Bell served as the Senior Military Fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University, Washington, D.C. His research at INSS included developing future strategic concepts ranging from space power to irregular warfare, assisting the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Staff with the development of strategic plans for possible contingencies, preparing a draft National Military Strategy, and analyzing previous strategic planning efforts in the United States military.

Colonel Bell holds a M.A. and a Ph.D. in History from the University of Maryland at College Park and a M.S. in National Security Strategy from the National Defense University. A Distinguished Graduate of the National War College, he has completed a research fellowship on the development of the American General Staff and published a monograph, *The Exigencies of Global, Integrated Warfare: The Evolving Role of the CJCS and His Dedicated Staff*. His awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, fourth award, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the combat action badge, and the parachutist badge.