

**3<sup>rd</sup> BATTALION TAC OFFICER**

**LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHRISTOPHER POLITES**

United States Army

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A 1992 Citadel graduate and Star of the West scholar, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Christopher F. Polites began his career as a Teach-Advise-Coach Officer at The Citadel in July, 2015. Upon retiring from the U.S. Army in 2013, he entered full-time into blacksmithing and went to horseshoeing school. He established Blue Blazes Farrier Service, LLC after a year-long apprenticeship, and worked the Fayetteville-Southern Pines-Fort Bragg, NC corridor. He maintains a few clients in the Charleston area, but now dedicates most waking hours to the South Carolina Corps of Cadets. During the first half of his military career, he served with the 82d Airborne Division, 10th Mountain Division and U.S. Army Intelligence Center and School. In 2004, he became a Civil Affairs officer with a Middle East/ Arabic focus, and served in numerous command/leadership roles within the 96th and 97th Civil Affairs Battalions (Airborne), and 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne), U.S. Army Special Operations Command. He amassed over 14 of 21 years in direct leadership, command, cross-cultural advisory/instructional, and primary staff assignments spanning 18 countries and five continents. He's a veteran of multiple combat and operational tours, including Panama, Kosovo, Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Operation New Dawn (OND), and OEF-Philippines (OEF-P). LTC (Ret) Polites culminated his Army career as the first Director of Civil Affairs Force Modernization at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School of Excellence. His proudest accomplishment is his marriage of over 23 years to his wife, Evelyn Sabrina Glover, of Robbinsville, NC - and their six children – Zoe, Annabelle, William, Ford, Mary, and Max. The Polites' now hail from James Island, and attend Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church downtown.