

COLONEL DAVID L. AHEARN, JR.  
Director, Combat Developments  
Fort Rucker, Alabama

Colonel David L. Ahearn, Jr., was born August 12, 1945, in Dayton, Ohio. He entered active federal service in June 1968. After graduation from Officer Candidate School in August 1969, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in Air Defense Artillery.

Colonel Ahearn's civilian education includes a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aeronautics and a Master of Science Degree in Systems Management (Research and Development) from the University of Southern California. His military education includes the Air Defense Artillery Officer Advance Course, the Armed Forces Staff College, Project Management Course, Defense Systems Management College, and the U.S. Army War College. He graduated from Initial Entry Rotary Wing Training in 1972 and is qualified to fly UH-1, CH-47D, AH-1, UH-60, and OH/AH-6 rotary wing aircraft. He also has a commercial pilot certification.

Colonel Ahearn has held a variety of command and staff assignments throughout his career. They include TRADOC Systems Manager, OH-58D Kiowa Warrior (1993-1994); Deputy Director for Operations, Defense Security Assistance Agency, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Pentagon, responsible for worldwide foreign military sales, and Chief, Training, Organization, and Manpower Division, Plans Directorate, Defense Security Assistance Agency, responsible for the International Military Education and Training Program (1991-1993); Commander, 2nd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, 6th Cavalry Brigade (Air Combat) and G3 Aviation Officer, Fort Hood, Texas (1987-1990); Department of the Army Staff Officer, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development and Acquisition, Pentagon (1984-1987); Commander, A Company, 160th Aviation Regiment (Special Operations) and XO, 229th Attack Battalion, Fort Campbell, Kentucky (1980-1983); Chief, Utility Cargo Branch, U.S. Army Aviation Board, Fort Rucker, Alabama (1979-1980); Aviation Group Assistant S3/Liaison Officer, Republic of Korea (1978-1979); Chaparral Battery Commander, Fort Lewis, WA (1973-1974); Rotary Wing Aviator, Republic of Vietnam (1972-1973); and Provisional Hawk Battery Commander (1970-1971). Colonel Ahearn's overseas assignments include Vietnam and Korea. He is currently serving as the Director of Combat Developments, U.S. Army Aviation Center, Fort Rucker, Alabama.

His decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC), Air Medal w/V (10 OLC), and the Army Commendation Medal (3 OLC). He has also earned the Air Assault Badge and Master Army Aviator Badge.

Colonel Ahearn is married to the former Donita (Doni) Durham, and they have three children--Kristi, Kimberly, and David III.