

## **COLONEL EDWIN J. DEN BESTE**

Colonel Ed Den Beste is the Inspector General, Louisiana Army and Air National Guard. In this capacity, Colonel Den Beste reports directly to The Adjutant General for the State of Louisiana.

Colonel Den Beste was born in Orange City, Iowa. He enlisted in the Army after receiving his draft notice upon graduation from Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa, in 1969. Upon completion of Basic and Advanced Individual Training and Officer Candidate School, he was commissioned in Field Artillery in 1970.

Upon completion of Flight School in 1971, Colonel Den Beste was assigned to Vietnam, where he flew Hueys with the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal) and Chinooks with the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). His follow-on assignment was to the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii, where he served as a Field Artillery Fire Support Officer and Firing Battery Executive Officer, Chinook Company Flight Operations Officer, and as a Field Artillery Firing Battery Commander.

Colonel Den Beste attended the Field Artillery Advanced Course in 1977, followed by consecutive assignments as a helicopter instructor pilot at Fort Rucker, Alabama, and as an Exchange Officer instructor pilot at the British Army Air Corps Centre, Middle Wallop, England.

In 1981, Colonel Den Beste was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas, where he served as G-3/Air, Aviation Battalion Executive Officer and Aviation Company Commander.

Upon graduation from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1985, Colonel Den Beste served for three years in United States Army Europe, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations as Crisis Action Manager and Chief of Current Operations.

In 1988, Colonel Den Beste assumed command of the Support Battalion, 26th Support Group, Heidelberg, Germany.

Returning to the United States in 1990, he served as a Combined Arms and Services Staff School (CAS3) Staff Leader. Colonel Den Beste was then assigned to Maxwell AFB, Alabama, to attend the Air War College, graduating in 1992.

Upon completion of Air War College, Colonel Den Beste was assigned as Director, Army Joint Support Team, USAF Air Warfare Center, Hurlburt Field, Florida. As such, he was dual-hatted as the Commandant, U.S. Army Element, USAF Air Ground Operations School, and the Senior Army Advisor to the USAF Air Warfare Center Commander, responsible for U.S. Army support to USAF Blue Flag and Green Flag Exercises.

His awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal. Colonel Den Beste is a Master Army Aviator and has earned a Master of Business Administration degree in Management from Pepperdine University.

Colonel Den Beste assumed his current position in September of 1995.