

Rolling Thunder XXII  
May 22-24, 2009  
Washington, D.C.

## Keynote Speaker (Sunday, May 24)

### Col. Michael D. Steele, U.S. Army

Mike Steele is a Colonel in the United States Army. He was a company commander in the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment during the Somalia mission *Operation Gothic Serpent*, which resulted in the now famous book and movie *Black Hawk Down*, in which he was portrayed by actor Jason Isaacs.

Col. Steele was raised in north Georgia, and attended the University of Georgia, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and served as offensive guard for the Bulldogs, a team that won three Southeastern Conference Championships and the 1980 National Championship.

After college, Col. Steele was commissioned in the U.S. Army as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry in 1983, and has served in a variety of leadership and staff positions in the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light), 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division (Light), the 82<sup>d</sup> Airborne Division, the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, and the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment. His deployments are numerous. In addition to his service in Somalia, he was a Major serving as the Operations Officer of an airborne battalion to secure the Panama Canal; as a Battalion Commander in Bosnia for Operation Joint Forge; as a Division Operations Officer in Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom; and as a Brigade Commander in Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Colonel Steele's current assignment is as the Chief of Training Division, United States Forces Command, Fort McPherson, Atlanta. He has two Master's degrees: one in Administration from Central Michigan University, and one in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College. His awards include the Combat Infantryman's Badge Second Award, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, Freefall Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.

