

MILITARY BIOGRAPHY OF
COLONEL JAMES M. VARTANIAN



Director of Operations
Rhode Island National Guard

Colonel James M. Vartanian was born in Providence, Rhode Island on April 12, 1961. He enlisted in the Rhode Island National Guard in 1979 and was commissioned in 1989. Colonel Vartanian was subsequently assigned to the 43d Military Police Brigade as a Platoon Leader in the 115th Military Police Company.

In 1991, COL Vartanian mobilized and deployed with the 115th Military Police Company to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. From 1992 to present, COL Vartanian has served in numerous duty positions including, Company Commander, 115th Military Police Company; Battalion S1-Personnel Officer, S4-Logistics Officer, and Executive Officer; Brigade Assistant S3/Training Officer, S4-Logistics Officer, Long Range Plans Officer and Executive Officer, and Chief of Training Division, Joint Forces Headquarters. In 2005, COL Vartanian deployed with the 43d Military Police Brigade as the Brigade Executive Officer-Chief of Staff and acting Deputy Brigade Commander for Theater Detention Operations, during combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2006, COL Vartanian assumed command of the 118th Military Police Battalion. In 2009, he graduated from the United States Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island and was assigned as Chief, Mobilization and Readiness Division for the Rhode Island Army National Guard and Deputy Brigade Commander for the 43d Military Police Brigade. In 2011, COL Vartanian deployed once again as Deputy Brigade Commander and Operational Commander for Theater Detention Operations during combat operations to Southeast Asia in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. COL Vartanian served as the Director of Property and Fiscal and as Deputy, United States Property and Fiscal Office (USPFO-RI) until his current assignment as G3/Director of Operations for the Rhode Island National Guard.

His awards include two Bronze Star Medals, Meritorious Service Medal with 1 Silver Oak Leaf Cluster (6th Award), Army Commendation Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters (4th Award), Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Medal with Bronze Service Star, Southwest Asia Service Medal with 2 Bronze Service Stars, Iraq Campaign Medal with 2 Bronze Service Stars, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia and Kuwait), Afghanistan Campaign Medal with 2 Bronze Service Stars, NATO Medal, Air Assault Badge and the Combat Action Badge.

COL Vartanian received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Rhode Island College, and is a graduate of Salve Regina University with a Masters Degree in International Relations. COL Vartanian is a graduate of the United States Naval War College, earning a second Masters Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies with a concentration in Homeland Security and Homeland Defense. COL Vartanian is also a graduate of the United States Army Command and General Staff College. COL Vartanian was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout in 1979, he is an avid Martial Art and Defensive Tactics Expert and is currently an active adult leader in Scouting with his son. COL Vartanian is a Widower, married to the late Judith A. (Brown) Vartanian, and he resides with their three children James (20), Christopher (18) and Matthew (15) in Cranston, Rhode Island.

Colonel James M. Vartanian

Executive Summary

Over 37 years of military service, 25 years of Active Duty service (Active Guard and Reserve-AGR) and 14 years of senior level leadership and managerial experience culminating as an Army Colonel with a global perspective; an exceptional leader and consummate professional who is a superior strategic thinker and planner; an agent for change, innovation, and problem solving; a threat assessor and mitigator; has led, organized and reorganized, equipped, trained and deployed both small and large organizations around the world having multiple mission objectives; melded diverse groups into cohesive, effective teams; achieved major efficiencies and fiscal savings; is customer-oriented, a public speaker, and media skilled; who is soundly principled, ethical, and moral in character; lives by the Army Values, is bound by the Warriors Ethos and is driven by faith in God, love of family and devotion to country.

Areas of Expertise:

- Senior Leader and Manager
- Strategic Thinker and Planner
- Master of the Decision Making Process
- Fiscal Management and Planning
- Organizational Structuring and Team Building
- Threat Assessment and Mitigation/Risk Management

Security Clearance Level & Type Investigation: Top Secret/SCI-DCID

Date of Federal Recognition (Present Grade/Colonel): 11 February 2011

Military Status: G3 Chief of Operations/Branch-Military Police/Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) Title 32

Executive Member of the Rhode Island Cybersecurity Commission: Appointed from 2015-2016

Adjunct Professor: Roger Williams University 2017 – Terrorism & Counter-Terrorism, Homeland Security

Civilian Education

- 2010** Salve Regina University, Master of Arts, International Relations, Newport, Rhode Island (GPA 3.97)
 - 2009** United States Naval War College, Master of Arts, National Security & Strategic Studies with a Concentration in Homeland Security and Homeland Defense, Newport, Rhode Island (GPA 3.61)
 - 1987** Rhode Island College, Bachelor's Degree, Accounting, Providence, Rhode Island
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Primary Military Education

- 2009** United States Naval War College (SSC), Newport, Rhode Island
Joint Professional Military Education (JPME), multiservice & multiagency approach to effective coordination and cooperation between the branches of the United States Armed Forces, executive development for senior leaders
- 2000** Command and General Staff College (C&GSC), Ft. Dix, New Jersey
Leadership, Mission, Vision, Principles, Priorities & Philosophy
- 1998** Combined Armed Services Staff School (CAS3), Ft. Dix, New Jersey
Effective Management, Military Decision Making Process, Public Speaking, and Briefing
- 1997** Officers Advanced Course (OAC), Ft. McClellan, Alabama
Advanced Leadership, Management, and Problem Solving Analysis
- 1990** Officers Basic Course (OBC), Ft. McClellan, Alabama
Leadership Skill Development, Management, Basic Branch Qualification

Secondary Military Education

2013 Contractor Representative Course, AASF, North Kingstown, RI
2012 Fiscal Law, AASF, North Kingstown, RI
2010 US Army Counter-Insurgency Academy (COIN), Kabul, Afghanistan
2010 Anti-Terrorism Level 4, Fort McLean, VA
2006 Pre-Command Course (Battalion/Brigade), USAMPS, Fort Leonard Wood, MI
2004 Officer In-Charge Course (OIC), National Guard Professional Education Center (NGPEC), AR
2004 Anti-Terrorism & Evasive Driving Course, USAMPS, Fort Leonard Wood, MI
2004 Rhode Island State Police Personal Protection Course, Rhode Island State Police Academy, RI
2003 Plans, Operations and Training Course, National Guard Bureau, Washington, DC
1999 Total Army Instructor Training Course (TAITC), 243d Regional Training Institute (RTI), RI
1993 Pre-Command Course (Company Commander), Rhode Island Military Academy, RI
1991 Physical Security Training Course, HQ STARC, RI
1991 Senior US Military Customs Inspector Course, FAF1, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
1990 Air Assault School, Camp Gruber, OK
1987 Officer Candidate School (OCS), Rhode Island Military Academy, RI

Civilian Experience

1987 Staff Accountant, Smith, Deck, Sweet & Company, CPA, Providence RI
1987-1989 Staff Accountant, Rosenfield, Holland & Raymon, CPA, New Bedford, MA
1989-1990 Staff Accountant and Tax Accountant, Colony Communications, Inc., Providence, RI

Civilian Certifications

FEMA Courses:

Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Course

IS-1.a Emergency Manager: An Orientation to the Position
IS-5.a An Introduction to Hazardous Materials
IS-27 Orientation to FEMA Logistics
ICS-100.b Introduction to Incident Command System (ICS)
IS-120.a An Introduction to Exercises
IS 130 Exercise Evaluation and Improvement Planning
ICS-200.b ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incident
IS-230.d Fundamentals of Emergency Management
IS-244.b Developing and Managing Volunteers
ICS-300 Intermediate Incident Command System
IS-700.a An Introduction to National Incident Management System (NIMS)
IS-706 An Introduction to NIMS Intrastate Mutual Aid
IS-800.b An Introduction National Response Framework
IS-26 Guide to Points of Distribution
IS-29 Public Information Officer Awareness

Military Experience

Present	G3/Director of Operations, JFHQ, RIARNG
2012-2014	Director of Property & Fiscal (OIC), United States Property & Fiscal Officer-RI, RIARNG
2010-2012	Deputy Brigade Commander (OIC), 43d MP BDE
2009-2010	Chief, Mobilization and Readiness Division/G3, JFHQ, RIARNG
2008-2009	Student, U.S. Naval War College, Newport, RI
2006-2008	Battalion Commander, 118th MP BN, (OIC) 43d MP BDE
2003-2006	Executive Officer (OIC), 43d MP BDE
2003	Long Range Plans Officer (LRP), 43d MP BDE
2002-2003	Chief, Training Division/G3, JFHQ, RIARNG
2001-2002	Executive Officer (OIC), 118th MP BN
1999-2001	S4/Logistics Officer, 43d MP BDE
1998-1999	Assistant S3/Training Officer (BCC), 43d MP BDE
1997-1998	S1/Personnel Officer (OIC), 118th MP BN
1995-1997	Assistant S3/Training Officer (HTH), 43d MP BDE
1991-1995	Administrative Officer/ROS Program Manager/G4, HQ STARC, RIARNG
1993-1995	Company Commander, 115th MP CO
1993	S4/Logistics Officer, 118th MP BN
1989-1993	Platoon Leader, 115th MP CO/838th MP CO
1989	Aide De Camp, 43d MP BDE
1987-1989	Officer Candidate School, Rhode Island Military Academy
1979-1987	Enlisted Service, RIANG

Significant Accomplishments in Senior Leadership

2005-2006 **Operation Iraqi Freedom:** Executive Officer/Chief of Staff and Acting Deputy Brigade Commander, Iraq.

- Charged with the primary responsibility for the care, custody and control of **Saddam Hussein** and several of his **senior leaders** (including, **Tariq Aziz**, Barzan Hassan, Ali Hassan Abd al-Majid al-Tikriti (**Chemical Ali**), the handling, security at both the secured sites and the Iraqi High Tribunal Court. Planned, coordinated and controlled all security measures and movements, air and ground; controlled all access and conducted continuous threat analysis and employed mitigation countermeasures.
- Spearheaded the planning and led the flawless execution phase in the closure of **ABU GHRAIB**.
- Planned the realignment and movement of 18,000 detainees over 5 Theater Detention Facilities.
- Led the re-write of the Theater Detention Operation SOP for the Army in Iraq.

2011 **Operation Enduring Freedom:** Deputy Brigade Commander/Operational Commander for Theater Detention Operations at the Detention Facility in Parwan (DFIP), Afghanistan.

- Led all US and Afghan forces in military operations within the DFIP and security forces at Forward Operating Base Camp Sabalu-Harrison, Bagram, Afghanistan.
- Wrote, designed and employed the Army's **Counterinsurgency Operations in the Wire (COIN)** for the DFIP.
- Created a team of over 20 intelligence analysts, interpreters, and intelligence gatherers and developed a new and innovative analysis for identifying the key leaders of the most dangerous and evil terror networks in the world, particularly senior members and foot soldiers of al Qaeda, Taliban, Hezb-e-Islami Gulbuddin (HIG), and Haqqani terrorist networks.

Significant Accomplishments in Senior Leadership (Continued)

- Personally led, planned and conducted several **soft kinetic operations** within the DFIP to establish and maintain control during detainee uprisings and escalated efforts of violence.
- Led and authored the complete re-write of the Army's Theater Detention Operations SOP.
- Led and coordinated the integration of Afghan soldiers in their training and certification of forces.

Provided military support during a number of state emergencies, including: blizzards, hurricanes, floods, and the water outage in Newport. Have led, planned, and executed military operational control of the Adult Correctional Institution (ACI) during a labor dispute, commanded Military Police during Civil Disturbance Operations, and coordinated with state agencies including the RI State Police, State Marshalls, local law enforcement agencies, the RI EMA, the ACI, the RI DOT and others to facilitate an appropriate and effective emergency military response.

Decorations, Awards & Citations (Military and Civilian)

Bronze Star Medal w/1 OLC - 2
Army Meritorious Service Medal w/1 Silver Oak Leaf - 6
Army Commendation Medal w/3 Bronze Oak Leaves - 4
Army Achievement Medal
Air Force Achievement Medal
Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal - 2
Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal
National Defense Service Medal w/2 Bronze Service Stars
Southwest Asia Service Medal w/2 Bronze Service Stars
Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/2 Bronze Service Stars
Iraqi Campaign Medal w/2 Bronze Service Stars
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
NATO Medal
Armed Forces Reserve Medal w/M Device, 2, Silver Hourglass Device
Army Service Ribbon
Army Overseas Service Ribbon - 2
Army Reserve Overseas Training Ribbon - 7
Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon
Saudi Arabian - Liberation of Kuwait Medal
Kuwait - Liberation of Kuwait Medal
Air Force Expert Marksmanship Ribbon
Combat Action Badge
Air Assault Badge
Meritorious Unit Commendation Award
Rhode Island Commendation Medal - 2
Rhode Island Emergency Service Ribbon
Rhode Island Service Medal w/XX Device
Rhode Island Defense Service Medal - 2
Rhode Island Recruiting Ribbon - 3
State of Kentucky - Kentucky Colonel
State of Nebraska - Nebraska Admiral
Numerous State and City Citations

Military and Civilian Affiliations (Past/Present)

Holy Apostles Roman Catholic Church, Cranston, Rhode Island
Eagle Scout - National Eagle Scout Association (NESA)
Military Police Regimental Association (MPRA)
Rhode Island Military Police Regimental Association (RIMPRA)
National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS)
National Guard Association of Rhode Island (NGARI)
Military Order of Foreign Wars (MOOFW)
American Legion
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
National Rifle Association (NRA)
Assistant Scout Master of Troop 8 Cranston, RI Narragansett Council of the Boy Scouts of America
Martial Arts Instructor (**Shihan/Master**) – Yabe Ryu Jujutsu and Yang Ki Yin Jujitsu
Past affiliations with Genbukan Ninpo Bugei, Kokusai Jujutsu Renmei, and Nihon Jujitsu

Personal

Born	12 April 1961, Providence, Rhode Island
Married	Judith Ann (Brown) Vartanian, 2 September 1989 (Deceased)
Widower	April 2012
Children	James (20), Christopher (18) and Matthew (15)
Interests	Family, Martial Arts, Physical Conditioning, Hunting, Fishing, Scouting, Reading, and the Outdoors
References	Furnished Upon Request