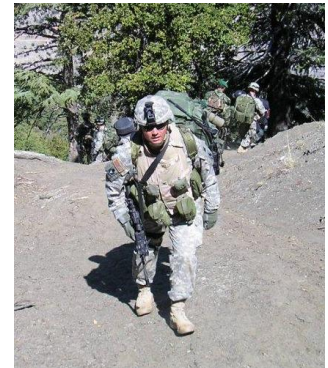


COL Ronald P. Welch, CT ARNG

Colonel Welch is the Chief of Staff for the Connecticut National Guard and Commander of the 85th Troop Command.

After graduating from East Lyme high school in 1978, Ron enlisted in the US Army. He volunteered with the 2nd Battalion (Ranger), 75th Infantry, where he served as a Ranger, Jumpmaster, Pathfinder, Sniper and Scout Swimmer. He returned to CT in 1982 as a Sergeant and enlisted in the CT Army National Guard. After attending OCS he was commissioned as an Infantry Officer in 1984. In 1986, COL Welch was selected as a member of the US Military Pentathlon Team, his team won the NATO Games that year. He has a Masters Degree in Organizational Management and a Masters in Strategic Studies and is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College.

COL Welch's many assignments include: Operations Officer in both Panama during Operation Promote Liberty; and for the CT National Guard Quick Reaction Force which deployed several times to Critical infrastructure sites in CT. He deployed to Afghanistan as Commander and Senior Advisor for Army and US Marine Advisors supporting the Afghan National Army (ANA) in Eastern Afghanistan where he trained, mentored, and conducted combat operations with ANA and Coalition Forces.



COL Welch's decorations and awards include: The Soldiers Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Badge as well as many other awards and decorations. He resides in Waterford with his wife Leanne and three children, Stephen, Katherine, and Ethan. Stephen is a SSG in B Company, 1-102nd Infantry, has deployed twice to Afghanistan and graduated from UCONN.