



North Dakota National Guard Colonel Dan ‘Murph’ Murphy



Colonel Murphy began his military career in 1988 when he enlisted in the 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery, Grand Forks, ND. He received a direct commission as a Second Lieutenant in 2005 and has since served in a variety of commands, staff, and leadership positions throughout the North Dakota National Guard.

His first mobilization occurred in 2003 with the 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. During his second deployment, from April 2006 to June 2007, he served as Public Affairs Officer of the 1st/129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment in support of U.S. Central Command operations in Southwest Asia. In 2009, he led public affairs operations for the North Dakota National Guard’s Kosovo Force (KFOR-12) mission, overseeing communications efforts for more than 1,000 Soldiers serving as part of the multinational peacekeeping force in Kosovo.

Colonel Murphy currently serves as the Chief of Staff for the North Dakota National Guard.

Additional leadership assignments include Director of Human Resources at Bismarck ND (2023–2026), Domestic Operations Director (2025–2026), and Commander of the 1st Battalion, 164th Regional Training Institute in Devils Lake, North Dakota (2021–2023). Executive Officer, 68th Troop Command at Bismarck, ND (2019–2021); Collective Training Manager (2017–2019); Plans Officer, 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade at Fargo, ND (2017–2018); Logistics Branch Chief, Joint Force Headquarters (2018–2019); Executive Officer, Recruiting and Retention Battalion (2015–2017); Operations Officer, Regional Training Institute at Devils Lake, ND (2013–2015); Assistant Operations Officer, 68th Troop Command (2011–2012); and Plans Officer, 164th Engineer Battalion at Minot ND (2010–2011). He also served as the North Dakota National Guard Public Affairs Officer from 2005 to 2015.

Colonel Murphy’s military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Management from the University of Mary in 2001, a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership from the University of Mary in 2024, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College in 2026.

In recognition of his professional and military accomplishments, Colonel Murphy was named to North Dakota Business Watch’s 40 Under 40 in 2009 and was selected as the North Dakota National Guard Field Grade Officer of the Year in 2015.

Beyond his military service, Colonel Murphy has maintained a strong commitment to community leadership and volunteerism. He has served in leadership roles with numerous civic and youth organizations, including the Bismarck Midget Football League, Grace Point Church AWANA program, Bismarck High School Football Boosters, Legacy High School athletic committees, the Legacy High School Concession Board, the Bismarck High School Football Foundation, and the Bis-Man Basketball Officials Association.

His overseas assignments and deployments have included service in Germany, Chile, Ghana, Iraq, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Romania, and Kosovo.

Colonel Murphy and his wife, Laura, reside in Bismarck, North Dakota.

