

Introducing 2024 Keynote Speaker Colonel Todd Wood

Speaker notes:

“Lessons learned on leadership and organizational management in the toughest of environments and challenging conditions. A military perspective on overcoming limited resources, workforce friction, and constraints-while creating value and winning. Is there really a strategy to “doing more with less”?”



Colonel Todd R. Wood was born in Des Moines, Iowa on 10 September 1963. He graduated from Indianola HS in 1982. He was commissioned an Infantry Second Lieutenant following his graduation from Central Missouri State University in 1986. Colonel Wood's initial assignment was with the 2nd Armored Division in Ft. Hood, Texas as a Mechanized Infantry Platoon Leader, Scout Platoon Leader, and Battalion Operations Officer. Colonel Wood's other key assignments include: Rifle Company Commander of B Company 3rd Battalion 21st Infantry and 125th Military Intelligence Battalion's Long Range Surveillance Detachment (Airborne) in the 25th Infantry Division (Light), Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Colonel Wood served as the Professor of Military Science at Southeast Missouri State University earning a Master's Degree in Public Administration. He graduated from the Command and General Staff College and attended the School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS), where he earned a Masters of Military Arts and Sciences (MMAS).

In May 1998, he was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) as the Chief of Plans, then as the Battalion Executive Officer for 3rd Battalion 187 Infantry Regiment and Brigade Operations Officer in 3rd Brigade 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. He was then assigned to the Battle Command Training Center at Ft. Leavenworth Kansas, as the Maneuver Team Chief. In February of 2003, Colonel Wood was assigned to 3rd Infantry Division and served as the Deputy Division Chief of Staff and then took command of 2nd Battalion 7th Infantry in Baghdad, during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) I. He deployed to Iraq again with the battalion during OIF III and served in Tikrit, Iraq. In July 2006, he was selected to work in the Pentagon, Joint Staff J5 Directorate of Strategic Plans and Policy as the Strategic Planner for the War on Terrorism Directorate from July 2006 until July 2008. Colonel Wood graduated of the U.S. Army War College, as an Army Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace, Washington, D.C. He assumed command of 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th ID, in Fort Wainwright, Alaska from 2009-2012. The 1-25th SBCT deployed to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in 2011-12, in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. COL Wood was then assigned to United States Army Pacific as the G3/5/7/9 until 2013, when he then became the Chief of Staff of the 25th Infantry Division. From Oct 2014 to July 2015 he deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan for ISAF/Resolute Support; and served as the Executive Officer Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Director CJ39/J39. He returned to Ft Leavenworth and served as the CGSS as the Director of the Department of JOINT, Interagency, and Multinational Operations (DJIMO). He retired from 30 years of active duty in June 2016, and is now an Assistant Professor at the Command and General Staff College, School for Command Preparation in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Completed the RICE Leadership Coaching Program in 2021, and has been coaching since June of 2021.

He and his wife Diane have 3 sons; Bobby a sales executive in Atlanta, Georgia, Richard a Deputy Sheriff in Platte County, Missouri, and Ryan who is a Specialist serving in the Army at Fort Riley, Kansas. Colonel Wood's military decorations include the Legion of Merit (3 awards) Bronze Star (3 awards), Purple Heart, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards), Meritorious Service Medal (5 awards), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (3 awards), Army Achievement Medal (4 awards), Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (3), Iraqi Campaign Medal (2), NATO Meritorious Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism and Service Medals, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (5), Air Assault Badge, Ranger Tab, Senior Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge.