

John Dowd

Bellport High School Class of 1980



COL. John Dowd entered the United States Army from Bellport, New York, and graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1984. He was commissioned as an Army Aviation Officer and attended the Aviation Basic Course. In 1985, he graduated from the Army Aviation Rotary Wing Course and was assigned to Fort Lewis, Washington in the 9th Infantry Division, where he served in a variety of junior leader positions, including company command. Following attendance at the Aviation Advanced Course in 1991, COL Dowd earned a degree at Harvard University in preparation for assignment as an Assistant Professor at the United States Military Academy from 1993 to 1995. After attendance at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, he was assigned to the 1st Armored Division at Hanau, Germany where he served in several field grade positions, including both battalion and brigade executive officer positions. While assigned to Germany, COL Dowd deployed in support of operations in both Bosnia and Kosovo. Upon return from Germany in 2001, COL Dowd served on the National Airborne Operations Center (NAOC) at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. In 2003, he took command of 1st Battalion, 212th Aviation Regiment, a training battalion responsible for primary and advanced flight training at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Following battalion command, from 1995 to 1997 COL Dowd served as the Chief, Organization and Force Development Branch of the Directorate of Combat Developments in the Army Aviation Warfighting Center at Fort Rucker. Next, he was assigned to attend the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. Following graduation from the Air War College in 2008, COL Dowd deployed to Afghanistan where he served first as the primary advisor to the Chief of Staff of the Afghan National Army, and then as the J-7 Training Officer for United States Forces-Afghanistan. Upon redeployment in 2009, COL Dowd returned to the Air War College to join the faculty, teaching courses in strategy and leadership.