

# ARMY ROTC UNIT

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

## **MR Robert C. Ballard (Retired)** Contractor, MAT-inc., Military Science Instructor

1st Sgt. (Ret) Robert C. Ballard was born in Carthage, Texas. He joined the Army in June of 1990 and attended One Station Unit Training at Fort Knox, KY to be a Cavalry Scout.

During his career, MR. Ballard served as a First Sergeant, Platoon Sergeant, Senior Drill Sergeant, Section Leader, and Team Leader. During his career, he deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; to Afghanistan & Qatar in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; to Haiti in support of Operation Uphold Democracy, and Bosnia/Herzegovina.

MR Ballard has been assigned to the following units: 3rd Sqdn, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd ID, Schweinfurt, Germany; 3rd Sydni, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 5th ID, Fort Polk, Louisiana; 2nd Sqdn, 1st Cavalry Regiment 5th ID, Fort Polk, Louisiana; 2-12 Cavalry Regiment, 1CD, Fort Hood, Texas; 2nd Infantry Division HQ, Camp Red Cloud, South Korea; 2nd Light Cavalry Regiment, Fort Polk, Louisiana; 5th Sqdn, 15th Cavalry Regiment, Fort Knox, Kentucky; 1st Sqdn, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 82nd ABN DIV, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry, Fort Polk, Louisiana; HHBn, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He was last assigned as the MSIII Military Science Instructor/Branch NCOIC for the Army ROTC department, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia.



MR Ballard's military and civilian education include the Foundation Instructor/Facilitator Course, 1SG Pre-Command Course, Airborne School, T-10 Jumpmaster Course, T-11 Jumpmaster Course, Army Reconnaissance Course, Sniper Advanced Marksmanship Training, EO Leader Course, Senior Leader Course, Combatives Level I, Drill Sergeant School, Advanced Leader Course, Combat Lifesaver Course, and the Sling Load Inspector Certification Course. He is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Homeland Security from American Military University.

MR Ballard was enrolled in the Excellence in Armor Program in 1993. He was selected as the Battalion NCO of the Quarter for 2-12 CAV in Fort Hood, Texas, in 1998. He was selected as a 1st Cavalry Division "Top 50 Cal. Gunner" at Fort Hood, Texas, in 1998. While deployed to Bosnia in 1999, with 2-12 Cav, he was selected to be the Battalion Sniper Team Leader. He was elected as the Troop Drill Sergeant of the Cycle twice between 2005-2007. While deployed to Afghanistan, he was assigned to Joint Task Force Paladin, and selected to be the Counter-IED Team Leader (O-3 Position) for Ghazni Province. MR Ballard served with distinction during Counter-Narcotics missions with Joint Task Force-Six along with the U.S. Southern Border areas and Joint Task Force-Bravo in Honduras.

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His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (4OLC), Army Commendation Medal (4OLC, 1 w/ V Device), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal (8 OLC), Army Good Conduct Medal (8th award), National Defense Service Medal (1 Star), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal (1 Star), Afghanistan Campaign Medal (2 Campaign Stars), Iraq Campaign Medal (3 Campaign Stars), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Korean Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (3), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (3), NATO Medal (1 Star), Drill Sergeant Badge, Combat Action Badge, Parachutist Badge, Royal New Zealand Jump Wings, Presidential Unit Citation, Joint Meritorious Unit Citation, Army Superior Unit Citation (2 OLC), The Honorable Order of Saint George Medallion, Armor Draper Leadership Award (2), and the Driver's Maintenance Badge- Driver Wheeled Mechanic Badge.

MR Ballard is currently serving as a Military Science Instructor as a contractor with Golden Key Group.