

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN BATISTE, US ARMY (RETIRED)

John Batiste retired from the US Army on November 1, 2005, after more than 31 years of commissioned service. His final assignment was commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division. Under his command, the “Big Red One” conducted successful peace enforcement operations in Kosovo and combat operations in Iraq. The division combat team was deployed to north-central Iraq from January 2004 until February 2005 and included 22,000 soldiers from active and reserve component units from throughout the United States. During the deployment to Iraq, the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry of the New York Army National Guard was attached to the division’s 2nd Brigade.

John was an Infantry Officer who served in command and staff positions throughout the Army in joint and combined assignments. His major combat and peace enforcement experience included deployments to Saudi Arabia and Iraq during Operations Desert Shield and Storm from August 1990 to April 1991, to Bosnia-Herzegovina during the Implementation Force (IFOR) mission from December 1995 to November 1996, and again to Kuwait and Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom II from January 2004 to February 2005.

A 1974 graduate of the United States Military Academy, John also holds a Masters Degree in Financial Management from the Naval Postgraduate School (1981). He is a graduate of the Army War College (1994), the Command and General Staff College (1986), Infantry Officer Basic and Advance Courses, and was a Ranger School honor graduate.

After retirement from the Army, John joined Klein Steel Service Inc in Rochester, NY and served as president and CEO from November 2005 to December 2013. During this period, the company emerged stronger from the Recession of 2008 as an *IndustryWeek* Best Plant in 2011. He also took charge of Buffalo Armory LLC in November 2011 to the present, a start-up company focused on producing a better armor and high strength steel to protect our troops in harm’s way.

In March 2009, John co-founded Level Five Associates, LLC with his West Point classmate and fellow retired major general, Robert Mixon. Level Five Associates is dedicated to helping organizations implement a culture of values-based leadership characterized by decentralization, empowerment, and initiative.

John and his wife Michelle live in Brighton, New York and have five children and four grandchildren. He serves on a number of boards and is focused on veterans’ initiatives, to include treatment for post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury.