



Reserve Forces Policy Board

Colonel Richard M. Sudder, ARNG Special Assistant and Advisor

Colonel Richard Sudder is the Army National Guard (ARNG) Senior Policy Advisor to the Chairman of the Reserve Forces Policy Board (RFPB) in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Washington, D.C. The RFPB serves as an independent adviser to the Secretary of Defense, providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary on strategies, policies, and practices designed to improve and enhance the capabilities, efficiency, and effectiveness of the seven Reserve Components. He serves as the lead policy advisor to the Board's Homeland Defense and Defense Support to Civil Authorities Subcommittee.



Colonel Sudder entered the U.S. Army in 2000 as a Judge Advocate assigned to the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, XVIII Airborne Corps. On September 12, 2001, he deployed to the Pentagon as the legal advisor to the Defense Coordinating Officer to the Federal Emergency Management Agency during the Pentagon search and recovery. His prior assignments include: Administrative Law Attorney, XVII Airborne Corps; Trial Attorney, Trial Defense Services, XVIII Airborne Corps and 82nd Airborne Division; and Trial Attorney, Contract Appeals Division, U.S. Army Legal Services Agency. He deployed to Uzbekistan and Afghanistan in 2002 as a Senior Trial Defense Attorney for OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM. His D.C. National Guard assignments include: Contract Law Branch Chief, National Guard Bureau-Legal Support Office (NGB-LSO); Operational Law Branch Chief and Executive Officer, NGB-LSO; Deputy Commander, NGB-LSO; and Commander, NGB-LSO (2018-2021). From January to June 2021, he served as the Staff Judge Advocate to the JTF-District of Columbia Commander during Operation Capitol Response I and II, 59th Presidential Inauguration, and 2021 Joint Session of the U.S. Congress.

Colonel Sudder's military training and education include: Airborne School; Judge Advocate Officer Basic Course; Judge Advocate Officer Advance Course; Command and General Staff College-Intermediate Level Education; Department of Defense Support of Civil Authorities Course; DoD Joint Inspector General Course; and Federal Emergency Management Agency Emergency Preparedness Course. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Finance from Florida State University and a Juris Doctorate degree from University of Miami. Colonel Sudder received a Master in Strategic Studies and Distinguished Graduate recognition from the U.S. Army War College in 2019.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (2nd), Army Commendation Medal (6th), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Air Achievement Medal, Parachutist Badge, and German Federal Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (Gold). He was awarded The Judge Advocates Association 2017 Outstanding Career Judge Advocate, ARNG.

In his civilian professional capacity, he is an Associate General Counsel with the Office of Inspector General, Department of Defense.

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