

## **COL Paul S. Sarat, Jr** **Deputy Commander, TF Rakkasan**

COL Paul S. Sarat, Jr was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey on 12 July 1965. He was commissioned Infantry following his graduation from The Pennsylvania State University.

COL Sarat's initial assignment was with the 2d Battalion, 325<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82d Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC as a Rifle Platoon Leader. He also served as an Anti-Armor Platoon Leader, HHC Executive Officer, and Battalion S1, deploying for OPERATION DESERT SHIELD and OPERATION DESERT STORM. After completion of the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, COL Sarat served as the Battalion S4 and Executive Officer of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division in Erlangen, Germany. After 1-30 IN deactivated, he was then assigned to 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division in Baumholder, Germany where he served as the Battalion S3 Air, and commanded D Company and HHC, including OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR in the former Republic of Yugoslavia. After company command, COL Sarat was assigned as an Investigation Element Team Commander in Joint Task Force-Full Accounting at Camp Smith, Hawaii, conducting searches for MIAs from the war in Southeast Asia in Laos and Vietnam from June 1997 to June 2000. COL Sarat attended Command and General Staff College (CGSC) where he earned a Masters of Military Arts and Sciences (MMAS) in May 2001. After CGSC, COL Sarat was assigned to 1-187 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne (Air Assault) Division as the S3, including OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and as the Executive Officer, including OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. COL Sarat served as an Inspector General in U.S. Army, Pacific at Fort Shafter, Hawaii from August 2003 to May 2005. COL Sarat commanded 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment at West Point, NY from June 2005 to June 2007, and served as the Secretary to the General Staff of the United States Military Academy from June 2007 to May 2009. COL Sarat was the Brigade Deputy Commander of 1<sup>st</sup> Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Fort Wainwright, AK from June to November 2009, including OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, prior to becoming Brigade Deputy Commander of 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade (TF Rakkasan), 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne (Air Assault) Division in November 2009 at Fort Campbell, KY. Additionally, COL Sarat commanded 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Troops Battalion in Afghanistan during OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM from February to May 2010 before resuming Brigade Deputy Commander duties.

COL Sarat's awards include the Bronze Star Medal (with five Oak Leaf Clusters), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (with four Oak Leaf Clusters), Combat Infantryman's Badge with star, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, and the Pathfinder badge.

He is married to the former Jill Ann Kelly of Monongahela, Pennsylvania, and they have five children, daughters Maura (20) and Hannah (9), and sons Justin (17), Haiden (13), and Ben (11). His family currently resides in Tampa, FL; Maura is a sophomore at the Savannah College of Art and Design, and Justin will enter the University of Kentucky in August 2011.