



Colonel Gary A. Hughes assumed duties as the Command Inspector General for Regional Health Command – Atlantic, now Medical Readiness Command, East in August 2021.

COL Hughes began his military career in 1989 when he enlisted as a Combat Signaler (31K). He was assigned to the 507th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) and deployed with the 507<sup>th</sup> for service in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In 1992, he was awarded an R.O.T.C. Scholarship for his undergraduate studies in Physical Science at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania and in 1996, he was awarded an Army Health Professions Scholarship for his Doctor of Optometry at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry. COL Hughes is also a graduate of the Army-Baylor Healthcare Administration Master's Degree Program and earned his Master of Strategic Studies, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

COL Hughes has a multifaceted career of various healthcare, education, administration, and leadership roles. As the 82nd Airborne Division Optometrist, Fort Bragg, NC, he deployed for Stabilization Force 10 in Tuzla Base, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and for Operation Enduring Freedom in Kandahar, Afghanistan. He simultaneously served as the Chief of Optometry and the Headquarters Detachment Commander at the Lawrence Joel Army Health Clinic, Fort McPherson, GA. He instructed ophthalmic programs at the Army Medical Department Center and School and led nine education programs as the Department Chair of Nursing and Specialty Medical Services at the Medical Education and Training Campus, Fort Sam Houston, TX. In Fort Knox, KY; he managed the careers of over 700 officers in seven medical specialties as an Assignment Officer at Human Resources Command. As a Lieutenant Colonel, he commanded both the Baumholder and Kaiserslautern Health Clinics in Germany. Most recently, COL Hughes served as the Optometry Program Manager and Optometry Consultant to the Surgeon General.

His awards include the Legion of Merit, the Army Meritorious Service Medal (four oak leaf clusters); the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (two oak leaf clusters); and the Army Achievement Medal (with oak leaf cluster). He has earned the Combat Medic, Parachutist and Air Assault Badges and he achieved the 5K Instructor, 3H Joint Planner, and 6Z Strategic Studies Graduate, Additional Skill Identifiers. He is a member of the Order of Military Merit and a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.