



United States Army

B I O G R A P H Y

Colonel Edward A. Figueroa **Chief; Office of Defense Cooperation, Ankara Türkiye**

Colonel Figueroa is a U.S. Army Foreign Area Officer (FAO) specialized in Western Hemisphere political-military affairs.

A California native by birth, COL Figueroa was raised in Puerto Rico and joined the Army in 2000 as an enlisted Infantry Soldier. Soon after, he was accepted into the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program at University of Fordham. He graduated at the top of his class and received a regular Army Officer commission as a Medical Service Corps Officer in 2003. Simultaneously, he completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Latin American Studies with a minor in Cultural Anthropology and Philosophy from Hunter College.

Following commissioning, COL Figueroa attended the basic Medical Service Corps School at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. As a company grade officer, he progressed through the traditional Medical Service Corps career assignments as platoon leader, company commander and battalion S3, while also serving in various nominative positions. He was selected for the U.S. Army Foreign Area Officer program in 2011, and in 2012 he attended the Naval Postgraduate School focusing on Security Studies in the Western Hemisphere and completed the Portuguese language course at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California.



FAO assignments have included serving as the Operations Officer at the United States Military Liaison Office (USMLO) in Brasilia, Brazil; Mexico Political Military Officer, U.S. Army North; Aide de Camp to the U.S. Army North Commander; Deputy for Mexico's Senior Leader Engagement Branch, U.S. Army North; Army Section Chief, Security Cooperation Office in Lima Peru; Army Fellow and Senior Strategist Office of Strategy, Policy and Plans at the Department of Homeland Security HQs; Executive Officer to the Deputy Combatant Commander U.S. Southern Command; Military Deputy, Intelligence Security Cooperation Division (J29) U.S. Southern Command and Deputy, Russia, Ukraine, Eurasia Division (J5) U.S. European Command. COL Figueroa's combat deployments include Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Colonel Figueroa is married to the former Melissa Gonzalez of Manhattan, New York, and they have two sons, Caleb (17) and Darian (12).

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Spanish
Portuguese-Brazilian
Portuguese-European

EDUCATION

U.S. Army Senior Service College, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, Massachusetts 2022
Department of Homeland Security Planners Course, Washington DC, 2019
Defense Strategy Course, Army War College, 2018
Joint Humanitarian Operations Course (JHOC), Brasilia, Brazil 2013
Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management (DISAM), Write-Patterson, Ohio 2012

Command General Staff College, Fort Gordon, Georgia 2012
Brazilian Portuguese, DLI, Monterey, California 2012
Sniper Employment Leader Course, Fort Carson, Colorado 2009
Fast Rope Insertion/Extraction System, (FRIES Master), Fort Benning, Georgia 2009
Small Group Instructor Course, Fort Benning, Georgia 2008
Close Quarter Marksmanship (CQM), Fort Benning, Georgia 2008
Squad Designated Marksman Course (SDM), Fort Benning, Georgia 2008
Humanitarian Demining Course, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, 2008
Pathfinder Course, (Honor Graduate) Fort Campbell, Kentucky, 2007
RDEC (Ranger Dynamic Entry Course), Fort Benning, Georgia, 2007
Advance Structural Breaching Course, Fort Benning, Georgia 2007
Rappel Master Course, Fort Campbell, Kentucky 2007
Total Army Instructor Training Course, Fort Benning, Georgia 2007
Officer Advanced Course, Fort Sam Houston, Texas 2007
Air Assault Course, Fort Campbell, Kentucky 2006
Medical Logistics Management Course, Fort Sam Houston, Texas 2005
Officer Basic Course, Fort Sam Houston, Texas 2003
United States Army Airborne School, Fort Benning, Georgia 1999

CIVILIAN EDUCATION

National Security Fellow 2021-2022
Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Security Studies (Western Hemisphere) 2011-2012
Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California

MBA with a concentration in Strategic Leadership, (Summa Cum Laude) 2010
TUI University, Cypress, California

Bachelor of Arts in Latin American History, 2003
Hunter College/Fordham University, New York, New York

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Bronze Star Medal
Purple Heart
Defense Meritorious Service Medal (3 OCL)
Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC)
Joint Service Commendation Medal
Army Commendation Medal (3 OLC)
Joint Service Achievement Medal (2 OLC)
Army Achievement Medal (2 OLC)
Navy/Marine Achievement Medal
Valorous Unit Award
Meritorious Unit Award
Army Superior Unit Award
National Defense Service Medal
Afghanistan Campaign Medal
Iraq Campaign Medal
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Army Service Ribbon
Overseas Service Ribbon (5 OLC)
NATO Service Medal
Combat Medical Badge, Operation Iraqi Freedom, (2004-2005)
Combat Action Badge, Operation Enduring Freedom, (2010-2011)
Pathfinder Badge
Airborne Badge
Air Assault Badge

Foreign Awards

Peruvian Army Medal

(Current as of November 2024)