



# HEADQUARTERS ALLIED LAND COMMAND



## BIOGRAPHY

### Lieutenant General John W. Nicholson Jr.

LTG John W. Nicholson, Jr. is the Commander of Allied Land Command (LANDCOM), North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Izmir Turkey. In the event of a major joint operation by NATO, LANDCOM is responsible for Mission Command of multiple NATO Corps to accomplish NATO's objectives. In peacetime, he is responsible for assisting NATO Land Forces with training, readiness, interoperability, evaluations and implementation of the Readiness Action Plan.



From Oct 2012 to Oct 2014, LTG Nicholson commanded the 82d Airborne Division, which formed the nucleus of the United States Global Response Force while continuing to provide forces to ISAF.

After a decade of COIN operations, the Division restored the capability to deploy anywhere in the world within 18 hours of notice to jump, fight and win in support of US national policy objectives.

Prior to Division Command, LTG Nicholson was the Deputy Director of Operations/Intelligence Integration for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) in Washington, D.C. where he supervised relevant information collection, intelligence analysis and fusion to deliver rapid Counter-IED and network-attack capabilities in support of all Combatant Commands (COCOMs).

From Dec 2010 to Jan 2012, he served as Deputy Commanding General for Operations of U.S. Forces Afghanistan and Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations of NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) where he was responsible for operations, planning and assessments of ISAF's comprehensive counterinsurgency campaign waged by roughly 140,000 troops from 50 Nations in partnership with the Afghan government, Afghan National Security Forces and interagency partners.

From Nov 2009 to Dec 2010, LTG Nicholson was the Director of the Pakistan Afghanistan Coordination Cell (PACC) of the Joint Staff where he was responsible to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) for synchronizing policy and the military activities of the services and COCOMs with the National Security Staff and all government agencies in the implementation of U.S. national policy in the region.

From October 2008 to September 2009, he was the Deputy Commander of Regional Command (RC) South, ISAF, which consisted of over 40,000 troops from 17 nations. As Deputy to Dutch MG Maert du Kruif, LTG Nicholson was responsible for planning and executing the introduction

and employment of over 20,000 U.S. forces into RC South in 2009 as well as the governance, development and civil-military integration of RC South's Campaign.

From July 2007 to October 2008, LTG Nicholson served as the Joint Staff J3 Deputy Director for Operations of the National Military Command Center where he supervised the principal, national-level, military command and control facility that provides worldwide monitoring, crisis response and strategic watch for the President, Secretary of Defense and the CJCS.

From July 2004 to June 2007, he commanded the 3rd Brigade Combat Team (Task Force Spartan) of the 10th Mountain Division in Fort Drum, New York. From February 2006 to June 2007, Task Force Spartan's nine battalions and eight provincial reconstruction teams conducted counterinsurgency operations in ISAF's RC East and as the only U.S. BCT in country in 2006 was responsible for 11 provinces, 570 miles of border with Pakistan and seven million Afghans.

LTG Nicholson commanded the Army's first Stryker Infantry Battalion 1<sup>st</sup> Bn 23<sup>d</sup> IN, 3<sup>d</sup> Stryker BCT 2ID from 1999-2001 at Fort Lewis, Washington. He was a G3 Plans Officer in 3d Infantry Division in Wurzburg Germany and Operations Officer of 1<sup>st</sup> Bn 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Mech) 1<sup>st</sup> ID in Schweinfurt Germany from 1994-96. In 2d Battalion 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment, he commanded C Company and served as Assistant S3 and LNO (1988-89, 1991-92). He began his service in the 82<sup>d</sup> Airborne Division from 1983-88 where he served as a rifle platoon leader, Company XO, Battalion/Brigade S3 Air, commander of A Co 2d Bn 325<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry Regt and AdC to the CG.

His other assignments include service as the AdC (1989-90) and Senior Military Assistant (2002-2003) to the Secretary of the Army; Strategist for the U.S. Army Chief of Staff (2001-02); Speechwriter for Commanding General, Peace Stabilization Force, Bosnia-Herzegovina (1997); Special Assistant for Commanding General, U.S. Army Europe (1996) and Strategic Plans and Policy officer at the George C. Marshall European Center for Strategic Studies, U.S. European Command (1997-99).

LTG Nicholson has a Bachelor's of Arts degree in history from Georgetown University, a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Military Academy, a Master's degree in Military Art and Science from the School for Advanced Military Studies and a Master's degree in National Security Studies from National Defense University. His military schools include the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the United States Army Command and General Staff College, the School of Advanced Military Studies and the National War College.

His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal for Valor, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, NATO Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge (2<sup>nd</sup> award), Expert Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge and the Ranger Tab.