

## Brigadier General (Retired) Joseph A. Smith

**BG(R) Joe Smith commanded two platoons, two companies, two battalions, an Aviation Brigade, served as a light infantry division Chief of Staff, an Assistant Division Commander and the Commanding General, United States Army Safety Center. After five combat tours and over 31 years of military service,** he transitioned to corporate America as Executive Vice President for a multimillion dollar company and later he started a family owned company, SAVVI LLC. Joe has a special talent for strategic vision, team building, process review and executive management. In an effort to give back to the community he has served on several boards to include: corporate, foundations and NASA's Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel following the Space Shuttle *Columbia* accident. Information about SAVVI can be found at [WWW.getsavvi.com](http://WWW.getsavvi.com)



BG (R) Smith attended Western Kentucky University from 1970 until he enlisted in the United States Army in 1973. In 1974 he returned to WKU under the "Green to Gold" program and completed both an undergraduate and Master's of Science Program.

Commissioned in 1976 as a Second Lieutenant, BG (R) Smith was assigned as an Armor Platoon Leader with the 5th Battalion, 33rd Armor at Fort Knox, Kentucky. In 1978 he attended flight school with a follow-on assignment to the 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 82d Airborne Division. In 1981, he attended the Armor Advanced Course received a second CAV assignment to the 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). In 1985 he served as an assistant professor of Military Science at the University of Utah. BG (R) Smith commanded the 4-228th Aviation Battalion in Honduras and **served 7 years with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne). While serving with the "Night Stalkers," he performed the duties of Group Assistant S-3 for Operations, Company Commander, Regimental S-3 and Commander of TF 1-160.** In 1998, upon completion of the War College, he was assigned to Fort Bragg and the United States Army Special Operations Command serving as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Special Operations Aviation. From June of 1999 to June 2001, he commanded the 10th Aviation Brigade Fort Drum, NY; from June 2001 to July 2002 he served as the Chief of Staff for the 10th Mountain Division and Coalition Task Force Mountain in Afghanistan.

His last tactical assignment was as the Assistant Division Commander for Support with the "All Americans", 82d Airborne Division in Iraq. As the ADCS he was responsible for all aspects of logistic for the Division serving in both Iraq and Afghanistan. BG (R) Smith orchestrated operations on the ground in both countries for several months. These assignments played a key role in his duties as Director of Army Safety and the Commanding General, United States Army Safety Center. As Director of Safety, BG(R) Smith was responsible for the safety oversight of a million man force spread across the globe and in combat in two countries. Accidental deaths dropped by 20% during his tenure.

**BG (R) Smith participated in Operation Just Cause in Panama, Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia, Operation Joint Forge during SFOR 6 in Bosnia, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain and 82d Airborne Divisions and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq.**

BG (R) Smith is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the US Army War College. His top military awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters and the Air Medal. He is a Master Army Aviator with Foreign Jump Wings from the countries of Poland, Honduras and Australia.

BG (R) Smith is a Distinguished Alumni from Kentucky's Hardin County Schools, a recipient of NASA Exceptional Service Medal, a member of the Western Kentucky University ROTC Hall of fame, a member of Enterprise First Baptist Church and a Paul Harris Fellow from Rotary International. He is most proud of his wife, the former Ms Cynthia Gail Benton, his three children and his eight grandchildren.