



VETTED

Ben Higginbotham

Texas A&M Veteran Accelerated Management Program 2018 - COHORT-1



Age: 49

Hometown: Kingsville, TX

Rank: Colonel

Military Service:

1990 - 2017: US Army

EDUCATION:

Army War College Fellow with the Director of National Intelligence (in the National Counter-Terrorism Center (NCTC) Directorate of Strategic Operational Planning), 2014-2015

US Army Command and General Staff College, 2002-2003

Master of Science in Defense Analysis, The US Naval Postgraduate School, Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict (SOLIC) Program, 2000-2001

Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness, Texas A&I University (now Texas A&M University Kingsville), 1990

MILITARY EXPERIENCE

- Director of Operations, Special Operations Command Africa, (2015 –2017)
- Army War College Fellow, Office of the Director of National Intelligence (with duty in the National Counter-Terrorism Center, (2014-2015)
- Plans and Future Threats Division Chief, Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), (2011 –2014)
- Battalion Commander (3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment), (2009 -2011)
- Professor of Military Science and Battalion Commander, Florida Southern College, (2008 -2009)
- Crisis Response Director, Special Operations Command Central, USSOCOM, (2006 – 2008)
- Executive Officer/Deputy Commander, 3d Ranger Battalion, USSOCOM, (2003 -2006)
- Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General(MG David Grange), 1st Infantry Division, (1998-1999)

Tell us a fun fact about you:

I'm a fanatical skier. I only learned to ski at the age of 45, along with my kinds, but have progressed rapidly and have skied all over the world.

What is the greatest single lesson you learned from your Military Service?

The best leaders, and the most productive, focus not on their own accomplishments, but rather on building high functioning teams, focusing their efforts on the most important things, and optimizing their effects.

Why did you apply for the Veterans Accelerated Management Program?

While I have a wealth of experience leading high-performing teams and turning ideas into action in the toughest circumstances around the globe, I recognize the need to round out that experience with a solid foundation of business knowledge.

What do you hope to accomplish in the next chapter of your life, both professionally and personally?

My focus has shifted from pursuit of a series of finite goals to an optimum way of life. I want to be an entrepreneur, an innovator, a leader for my family, a good and active citizen, a lifelong learner, a writer and an artist, and an active outdoorsman. Underpinning it all, I want to help others. There's no finish line for any of that –only a path.

What would you tell today's American public about our nation's Veterans transitioning out of the military?

The average Veteran has already proven themselves: dependable, values-focused, able to learn, and accustomed to delivering despite obstacles. Taking a chance to hire a Veteran, even over a candidate with more –but more-narrow –business experience is a winning bet far more often than not.