



Lieutenant Colonel Mark Beckler – Luke's Wings Texas Officer Manager and Texas Veterans Commission Liaison

Mark hails from Wooster, Ohio. He used an ROTC scholarship to attend the University of Chicago. Upon graduation, Mark was commissioned into the Army Aviation Corps. After flight training, Mark served in the multinational peacekeeping force in the Sinai, Egypt. He subsequently served in Aviano, Italy with the Army's Southern European Task Force. After Italy, Mark served as a flight operations officer in Bravo Company, 7th Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). In 1999, Mark left the Active Army and attended law school at the University of Akron. Mark remained an aviator and became an aviation maintenance officer in the Ohio National Guard while in Law School.

In 2002, Mark completed the Ohio Bar Exam. While awaiting the Bar Exam Results, he volunteered for a stint on active duty while the Army geared up for a probable conflict in Iraq. Mark worked with the National Guard Bureau and the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. Mark was promoted to Major in 2003 and offered a chance to deploy with the 4-159th Aviation Maintenance Battalion in 2004. Mark went to Fort Bragg, North Carolina in December 2004 and spent most of 2005 in Iraq.

Upon return from Iraq, Mark attended the Army's Command and General Staff Officer Course (GCSOC) and Advanced Military Studies Program (AMSP) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas before returning to Arlington. In 2009, Mark was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and selected to serve as a 2010 Army Congressional Fellow in the office of US Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX). Mark now works as an Army Congressional Budget Liaison Officer coordinating between the Army leadership and the Senate and House Congressional Appropriations Committees.

Mark is currently working with Luke's Wings to establish a presence in Texas and to win a grant with the Texas Veterans Commission. Pending the grant, Mark will work to open our Austin office and manage flight requests from Texas Veterans.