

A 1992 Citadel graduate and Star of the West scholar, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Christopher F. Polites began his career as a Teach-Advise-Coach Officer at The Citadel in July, 2015. Upon retiring from the U.S. Army in 2013, he entered full-time into blacksmithing and went to horseshoeing school. He established Blue Blazes Farrier Service, LLC after a year-long apprenticeship, and worked the Fayetteville-Southern Pines-Fort Bragg, NC corridor. Now, he primarily forges as a hobby. During the first half of his Army career, he served with the 82d Airborne Division, 10th Mountain Division and U.S. Army Intelligence Center and School. In 2004, he became a Civil Affairs officer with a Middle East/ Arabic area of concentration, and served in numerous command/leadership roles within the 96th and 97th Civil Affairs Battalions (Airborne), helping to stand up the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne), First Special Forces Command (Airborne), U.S. Army Special Operations Command (Airborne). He served 14 of 21 years at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in direct leadership, command, cross cultural advisory/instructional, and primary staff assignments. He's a veteran of multiple combat and operational tours, including Panama, Kosovo, Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Operation New Dawn (OND), and OEF-Philippines (OEF-P). LTC (Ret) Polites culminated his Army career as the first Director of Civil Affairs Force Modernization at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School of Excellence. He has been blessed with 30 years of marriage to his incredible wife, Evelyn Sabrina Glover, of Robbinsville, NC. They have homeschooled over 20 years and have six children and one granddaughter. LTC (Ret) Polites and his family are practicing Orthodox Christians and attend both Holy Ascension as well as Holy Trinity Orthodox Churches in the Charleston area.