

Maj. Christopher M. O'Brien, U.S. Army
Commander, Detachment Three
Vientiane, Laos



U.S. Army Maj. Christopher M. O'Brien was born and raised in Massachusetts. He attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, and received a Bachelors of Science degree in Environmental Science. Upon graduation, Maj. O'Brien was commissioned as an Infantry Branch 2nd Lt.

Maj. O'Brien began his career as a platoon leader and staff officer assigned to 101st Airborne Division (AIR ASSAULT), Fort Campbell, Ky, where he served as a rifle platoon leader, heavy weapons platoon leader, scout platoon leader, and Battalion Adjutant. During his time as a rifle platoon leader, he served in the Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt.

Following the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, Maj. O'Brien attended the Special Forces Qualification Course. After graduation he served with the 1st Special Forces Group at Fort Lewis, Washington as a detachment commander and staff officer. Following duty at Fort Lewis, Maj. O'Brien attended the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif., graduating from the Thai Basic Course.

After language school, Maj. O'Brien attended the Royal Thai Army Command and General Staff College. Following graduation, he served as a ground operations officer at the Joint United States Military Advisory Group in Bangkok, Thailand. Upon his return to the United States, he studied at the University of Wisconsin where he received a Masters of Arts in Southeast Asian Studies. Maj. O'Brien's next assignment was under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Training Mission in Kabul, Afghanistan with the Security Assistance Office, where he was Chief, Afghan National Police Foreign Military Sales Branch.

Maj. O'Brien's professional military education includes the Infantry Officers Basic and Advance Courses at Fort Benning, Ga., the Special Forces Qualification Course at Fort Bragg, NC., Royal Thai Army Command and General Staff College in Bangkok, Thailand, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Belvoir, Va., and the Joint and Combined Warfare School at Norfolk, Va.

Maj. O'Brien's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (first Oak Leaf Cluster), the Afghan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service and Expeditionary Medals, the NATO ISAF Medal, the Multinational Force and Observer Medal, the Expert Infantryman's Badge, the Special Forces Tab, the Ranger Tab, the Military Freefall Parachutist Badge, the Parachutist Badge and the Air Assault Badge.