

BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL ZERBONIA

Assistant Adjutant General, Illinois Army National Guard

Brigadier General Michael Zerbonia was appointed as the Assistant Adjutant General for the Illinois Army National Guard on October 1, 2015. His previous assignment was as the Land Component Commander.

As the Assistant Adjutant General, General Zerbonia serves as the principal assistant to the Adjutant General in all matters pertaining to supervision and management of the Illinois Department of Military Affairs and the Illinois Army National Guard, which consists of 10,000 citizen-Soldiers.

General Zerbonia is also the commander of the Illinois Army National Guard. He is responsible for the overall readiness, operations, training, maintenance and logistical support and for the management, welfare, morale, discipline and safety of the Soldiers.



General Zerbonia has more than 30 years of military service. He enlisted as a military policeman in the Missouri Army National Guard in 1983 and later commissioned as a second lieutenant in May 9, 1986 after completing the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Northeast Missouri State University. In 1988, General Zerbonia transferred to the active Army as an air defense artillery officer. He joined the Illinois National Guard in 1991 as the assistant air defense coordination officer with the 1st Battalion, 202nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment.

General Zerbonia has served in critical roles at all levels of command and staff. He served as commander of the Bilateral Embedded Staff Team A10 and as the deputy brigade commander for the Polish 12th Mechanized Brigade in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Other assignments include battery commander, commander of the 1st Battalion, 202nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, team chief of the 244th Army Liaison Team, and commander of the 108th Sustainment Brigade.

General Zerbonia supported military operations in Poland, Turkey and Germany. He deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from June 2005 to June 2006 and to Afghanistan from October 2012 to May 2013 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

General Zerbonia's military education includes the Air Defense Artillery Officer Basic Course, Air Defense Artillery Officer Advanced Course, Combined Arms Service and Staff School, Command and General Staff College, Defense Strategy Course, U.S. Army War College and Dual Status Commander's Course. He has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Northeast Missouri State and a master's degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

General Zerbonia's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), National Defense Ribbon, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Army Service Ribbon and the Combat Action Badge. General Zerbonia has various other state awards and has been awarded the Bronze Medal of the Polish Armed Forces.

As of October 2015