

BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL ZERBONIA

Land Forces Component Commander, Illinois Army National Guard

Brigadier General Zerbonia received the appointment as the Land Forces Component Commander for the Illinois Army National Guard on June 3, 2013. His previous assignment was as the 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.

As Land Forces Component Commander, General Zerbonia directs the state's brigade-level commands. He oversees the readiness of Soldiers spread throughout Illinois and serves under the Assistant Adjutant General – Army of the Illinois National Guard.

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 May 9, 1986 after completing the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Northeast Missouri State University. In 1988, Colonel Zerbonia transferred to the active Army as an air defense artillery officer. He later 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 many critical roles at all levels of command and staff in his career. He has served as a battery commander, commander of the 1st Battalion, 202nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, team chief of the 244th Army Liaison Team, commander of the 108th Sustainment Brigade and commander of the BEST A10.

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 September 2012 to June 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 and U.S. Army War College. 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), the 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. Colonel Zerbonia has various other state awards and has been awarded the Bronze Medal of the Polish Armed Forces.

In his civilian occupation, General Zerbonia serves as the Colonel of Operations for the Illinois State Police.

As of February 2014

