

A native of Auburn, New York, Lt. Col. John F. Leide was commissioned as an Armor Officer upon graduation from the United States Military Academy in 1993. His first assignment was to the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor at Fort Riley, Kansas where he served as a Tank Platoon Leader, Support Platoon Leader, and Tank Company Executive Officer from 1993 to 1997.

Upon completion of the Armor Officer's Advanced Course, Leide was assigned to the 4th Squadron, 7th Cavalry at Camp Garry Owen, Republic of Korea. From 1997 to 1999, he served as the Squadron Assistant Operations Officer and the Commander of B Troop, 4-7 CAV.

Following his tour in Korea, Leide moved to Fort Bragg, N.C., where he completed the Psychological Operations and Civil Affairs officer training pipeline before being assigned to the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne). From March 2001 to Dec. 2002, Leide served as a Civil Affairs Team Leader and Company Operations Officer for C Company, 96th CA. As the Company Operations Officer, LTC Leide deployed the company in direct support of Joint Special Operations Task Force – Dagger during the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

After leaving Civil Affairs to return to Armor Branch, LTC Leide was assigned as a Unit Trainer and Battalion S3 for the 2nd Squadron, 409th Regiment in Knoxville, Tennessee from 2002 to 2004; providing training support to the 3rd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment (TNARNG). He was then assigned to the Collective Training Directorate at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he was the training proponent for the Army's Maneuver Control System.

In 2006, Leide returned to Fort Bragg to serve with the 1st Brigade Combat Team (504th Parachute Infantry Regiment), 82nd Airborne Division. As the Brigade conducted transformation and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he served as the Brigade Assistant Operations Officer, Executive Officer of the Brigade Special Troops Battalion, and Squadron Executive Officer of the 3rd Squadron, 73rd Cavalry. LTC Leide then transferred to the Division Staff where he served as Chief of Current Operations for the Division's Tactical Command Post in Gardez, Afghanistan, where he assisted the Deputy Commanding General – Operations in developing a Combined Action partnership with the 203rd Corps of the Afghan National Army.

Leide received a Bachelor of Science degree in History from the United States Military Academy and a Master of Science in International Relations from Troy University. His military education includes the Armor Officer's Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the Psychological Operations Officer Course, Civil Affairs Officer Course, Basic Military Language Course in Modern Standard Arabic, Jumpmaster Course, and Command and General Staff College.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Joint Service Achievement Medal, and Army Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters. He has also been awarded the Order of Saint George, the German Parachutist Badge, Chilean Senior Parachutist Badge and is a Master Parachutist.