

## Bro. Harris Earns A Star



United States Army Colonel Shawn Harris of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General. The military ceremony was held at Clay National Guard Center's Force Headquarters in Marietta, GA.

Immediately after his promotion, Brigadier General Harris was deployed to Kosovo as the Chief of Staff of Kosovo Forces and will remain in Kosovo for one year. In this assignment, General Harris will serve as the highest-ranking American on the ground and will serve as the Chief and Executive Coordinating Officer of a large multi-national headquarters.

He will be responsible for the leadership and management of military staff from 28 different nations. Brig. Gen. Harris will also be responsible for establishing and maintaining liaison with the United Nations' mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), NATO

Headquarters in Tirana (Albania) and HQ JFC Naples.

Prior to his appointment as Brigadier General, Harris was charged with managing the day-to-day operations of the Virgin Islands National Guard (VING), as well as serving as the Joint Chief of Staff for the Virgin Islands National Guard. He facilitated programs and directives for the Adjutant General and coordinated efforts throughout the organization. In addition, Harris had direct oversight of the directorate staff and programs that included functions related to personnel, operations, logistics, facilities, communications, and strategic planning. He also served as the Brigadier Commander of the 63rd Troop Command and was responsible for over 2,400 personnel and their corresponding families.

Bro. Harris hails from Blakely, Georgia and began his military career in 1984 by attending Boot Camp with the United States Marine Corps (USMC). Four years later, he enrolled in the Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) program at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama. He graduated as a Second Lieutenant with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education with a minor in Military Science. Later, he went on to attend the Command and Special Staff College, Counterinsurgency Leaders Course and Combat Advisor/Mentor Program. Bro. Harris earned a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Grand Valley State University and later was selected to attend the United States Army War College where he earned a Master of Strategic Studies. He later studied at Harvard University where he received training in Leadership.

Brother Shawn Harris is married to Dr. Karla Harris. They have five sons, two grandsons and two granddaughters. Brother General Harris is a member of the Tenth District's Iota Pi Chapter located in Grand Rapids, MI. He was initiated into the Fraternity through Iota Omega Chapter in 1990.