

# SOCIETY FOR MILITARY PSYCHOLOGY

Presents this 2019 Presidential Citation to

## *Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Mark Staal, PhD, ABPP*

For his dedication as one of the leaders in the field of operational psychology and military psychology demonstrated through his applied practice, consultation, and service to Division 19.

One of Dr. Staal's initiatives as a Past President of Division 19 was to codify the practice guidelines that govern the diverse field of operational psychology. He established a task force composed of psychologists from across relevant applied psychology divisions in APA, along with psychology leaders in national security, defense, and law enforcement communities. Dr. Staal's unrelenting commitment to this process moved operational psychology closer to recognition as a field of professional practice. He also has established the ethics committee for the for Division 19 that offers consultation to the Division as well as advocacy for military psychology regarding the next APA ethics code. Additionally, he has served as a mentor in the Society Leadership Program, advancing our pipeline of young operational psychologists.

Dr. Staal also served as the senior editor for *Operational Psychology: A New Field to Support National Security and Public Safety*, which was published this past June. This body of work brought together experts from across the field, and is the first publication of its kind.

Throughout his military career and, now, as a civilian, Dr. Staal has been the exemplar of an operational psychologist. His practice has consistently blended rigorous research, an unyielding adherence to ethics, and a willingness to push the boundaries of the fields ahead.

The majority of his career has been spent in nontraditional settings, where his expertise in personnel assessment has had a tangible impact upon the selection of NASA astronauts, Navy SEALs, Army Green Berets, and Air Force Commandos. A veteran of multiple deployments to combat zones, Dr. Staal provided operational psychology consultation for Special Forces units working under conditions best described as arduous and demanding. He has translated many of these same roles into his current position as the owner of OSS Consulting.

For his outstanding leadership in operational psychology demonstrated through scholarly and applied practices in the fields of operational and military psychology, I, Stephen V. Bowles, take great pleasure in presenting the Society for Military Psychology Presidential Citation to Dr. Mark Staal.

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Stephen V. Bowles, PhD, ABPP  
President, Society for Military Psychology

