



COL (Ret) Keith Sledd
Executive Director, Heart of Texas Defense Alliance

Keith Sledd serves as the Executive Director for the Heart of Texas Defense Alliance which is a regional (7 cities / 3 counties) municipally funded non-profit 501(c)(6) corporation advocating for Fort Hood, regional defense industries, and Soldiers and Families.

Keith was born in Sulphur, Oklahoma in 1961 to Joe and Margaret Sledd of Hickory, Oklahoma. He initially enlisted in the Army from 1980-1984 culminating as a sergeant in the 82nd Airborne Division before attending East Central University and graduating in 1987. Upon graduation, he was commissioned a second lieutenant of infantry and later transitioned to multifunctional logistics.

During his 34 years in the military Keith served in numerous levels of command from company through brigade level and staff from battalion through joint force command at a variety of locations including Fort Benning, Georgia; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Polk, Louisiana, Fort Lee, Virginia; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Alexandria, Virginia; Wurzburg, Germany; Schweinfurt, Germany; Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania; Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois; Bamberg, Germany; and Wiesbaden, Germany before his last assignment at Fort Hood, Texas. Keith deployed 6 times including Iraq and Afghanistan. He retired from the Army in 2017 as a Colonel prior to assuming the role of Executive Director for the Heart of Texas Defense Alliance.

Keith's education includes a Bachelor of Arts in History from East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma; a Master's of Science Degree in Logistics Management from Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Florida; and a Master of Science Degree in Strategic Studies from the Army War College.

Keith serves in several civic organizations and boards. Most recently in 2018, Keith was appointed as the Chair for the Texas Governor's Committee to Support the Military. He also serves on a number of professional, economic development, and civic boards.

Keith lives in Arnett, Texas with his wife the former Wendy Rene Droze from Crowder, Oklahoma who is the Director of Communications for Copperas Cove ISD and they have one daughter. Their son-in-law, daughter, and two grandchildren are stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina where their son-in-law is in the 82nd Airborne Division.