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Gronski promoted to brigadier general in National Guard

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Ask John L. Gronski about his life influences, and he singles out his Moosic roots, especially his late father, Paul.

Ask him about his military influences, and specifically those who helped shape a Pennsylvania Army National Guard career that hit another milestone Sunday with his promotion to brigadier general, and he laughs.

There are just too many.

“This is not something an individual attains,” Brig. Gen. Gronski said by telephone from Fort Indiantown Gap, where he was promoted by Maj. Gen. Jessica L. Wright, adjutant general of the Pennsylvania National Guard. “It’s something attained by the soldiers and noncommissioned officers and officers you have around you,” he said.

Brig. Gen. Gronski, 50, is currently assigned as an assistant adjutant general at the Guard’s Joint Force Headquarters at Indiantown Gap, where he responsible for current operations, such as National Guard support of civilian authorities.

Prior to that, he commanded the 28th Infantry Division’s 2nd Brigade Combat Team, which conducted operations in Ramadi, Iraq — part of the so-called Sunni Triangle — from July 2005 to June 2006.

His command included 5,400 American troops, including 2,200 Guardsmen from Pennsylvania, and another 5,000 Iraqi troops.

Brig. Gen. Gronski, a graduate of Riverside High School and the University of Scranton, said his personal command philosophy is centered around character and leadership by example.

He initially learned those attributes from his father, a World War II veteran who founded the Moosic car dealership that bears the family's name, and embraced them as he embarked on his career.

“It was both my upbringing and the mentoring I received from leaders throughout my military career,” he said.

Brig. Gen. Gronski declined to discuss the current situation in Iraq, saying it is “impossible to know unless you are on the ground there, making decisions.”

“But I will say this. Our soldiers, our Marines, our Air Force personnel and our Navy personnel are truly showing their professionalism and bravery on a daily basis,” he said. “Americans can be proud of these troops.”

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