



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD S. KERR

Lieutenant Colonel Richard S. Kerr is the Commander, 43d Operations Squadron, Pope Army Airfield, North Carolina. The squadron is responsible to combatant commanders to facilitate rapid outload and projection of the XVIII Airborne Corps' Immediate Response Force from Pope Army Airfield as the operations arm of Air Mobility Command's Task Force Gryphon. The squadron provides 24/7/365 airfield operations, Joint Forcible Entry exercise support, tactics, joint airdrop inspection, en route ops, and records management for Team Pope's Special Warfare Airman.

Prior to assuming command, Lieutenant Colonel Kerr served as the Chief of Safety for the 43d Air Mobility Operations Group. In this role, Lieutenant Colonel Kerr oversaw the flight, occupational and weapons safety program for more than 2,600 Airman and civilians on Pope AAF.

Lieutenant Colonel Kerr was commissioned in the Air Force in 2005 after graduating from the United States Air Force Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in History. He then completed Undergraduate Pilot Training at Vance Air Force Base in 2007 and began flying the C-17A. Lieutenant Colonel Kerr obtained a Master of Arts in Political Science from the American Military University in 2013.

Lieutenant Colonel Kerr served in the 613 Air Operations Center, Air Mobility Division, providing Command and Control support for mobility aircraft and aircrew assigned and in support of US INDO-PACOM. Prior to his current assignment, Lieutenant Colonel Kerr was the Director of Operations for the 57th Weapons Squadron, C-17 Weapons Instructor Course. While there he was responsible for producing C-17 Weapons Officers and Weapons Instructors. Lieutenant Colonel Kerr is a C-17 Instructor Aircraft Commander and US Air Force Weapons Officer with over 3,400 hours in the C-17A aircraft. He has flown 955 combat hours in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, NEW DAWN, and FREEDOM'S SENTINEL.

EDUCATION

2005 Bachelor of Science in History, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado

2006 Air & Space Basic Course, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama

2012 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama

2013 Master of Arts in Political Science, American Military University, Virginia

2014 United States Air Force Weapons School, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada

2017 Air Command & Staff College, via Correspondence, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama

ASSIGNMENTS

1. April 2006 – May 2007, Student Pilot, 71st Flying Training Wing, Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma
2. May 2007 – May 2008, Squadron Safety Officer and Pilot C-17A, 16th Airlift Squadron, Charleston Air (Current as of 10 May 2023)



Force Base, South Carolina

3. May 2008 – January 2010, Training Officer and Pilot C-17A, 16th Airlift Squadron, Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina
4. February 2010 – January 2011, Chief Pilot Scheduling and Aircraft Commander C-17A, 16th Airlift Squadron, Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina
5. February 2011 – January 2012, Assistant Operations Flight Commander and Instructor Aircraft Commander C-17A, 16th Airlift Squadron, Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina
6. February 2012 – January 2013, Training Flight Commander and Instructor Aircraft Commander C-17A, 16th Airlift Squadron, Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina
7. February 2013 – August 2013, Assistant Director of Operations and Evaluator Aircraft Commander C-17A, 16th Airlift Squadron, Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina
8. August 2013 – July 2014, Assistant Chief of Standardization and Evaluation and Evaluator Aircraft Commander C-17A, 517th Airlift Squadron, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska
9. August 2014 – December 2015, Chief of Standardization and Evaluation and Evaluator Aircraft Commander C-17A, 517th Airlift Squadron, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska
10. January 2016 – May 2016, Branch Chief, Operations Group Standardization and Evaluations and Evaluator Aircraft Commander, 3^d Operations Group, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska
11. May 2016 – May 2017, Deputy Chief Air Mobility Control Team, 613th Air Operations Center, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii
12. May 2017 – February 2018, Deputy Chief Airlift Control Team, 613th Air Operations Center, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii
13. March 2018 – May 2019, Chief Airlift Control Team, 613th Air Operations Center, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii
14. June 2019 – January 2020, Assistant Director of Operations and Weapons Instructor Course Instructor C-17A, 57th Weapons Squadron, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington
15. January 2020 – June 2022, Director of Operation and Weapons Instructor Course Instructor C-17A, 57th Weapons Squadron, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington
16. July 2022 – May 2023, Chief of Safety and Instructor Aircraft Commander C-17A, 43^d Air Mobility Operations Group, Pope Army Airfield, North Carolina
17. May 2023 – Present, Commander, 43^d Operational Support Squadron, Pope Army Airfield, North Carolina

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: More than 3,400

Aircraft Flown: C-17A

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air and Space Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Air and Space Achievement Medal

Meritorious Unit Award with one oak leaf cluster

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant June 01, 2005

First Lieutenant June 01, 2007

Captain June 01, 2009

Major September 1, 2015

Lieutenant Colonel March 1, 2020

(Current as of 10 May 2023)