



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL JOHN M. ROSS

Colonel John Ross is the Chief of Staff, Special Operations Command-North, Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado. Prior to arriving at Peterson, Col Ross was the Commander, 316th Operations Group, 316th Wing, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. As Commander, he oversaw the daily operations of two squadrons, a contract maintenance unit, a contract simulator unit, and the employment of 22 UH-1N helicopters tasked with providing continuous contingency response airlift, aviation operations, and flight management support for Joint Base Andrews, joint interagency operations, senior officials in the National Capital Region, and other worldwide customers.

Prior to command, Col Ross was the Director of Strategic Plans and Policy at Special Operations Command-Korea. As USSOCOM's subunified command charged with maintaining the armistice and being prepared to "fight tonight", he ensured US Special Operations Forces and their Republic of Korea counterparts planning efforts are nested into the broader United States Forces Korea and USINDOPACOM Korea family of plans. Prior to Korea, Col Ross was the 58th Special Operations Wing Commander's Action Group director and the Deputy Commander of the 58th Operations Group, both located at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. He directed training in the MC-130J, HC-130J, HH-60G, UH-1N, CV-22, and MV-22, supervising a \$92M, 23.1 thousand hour flying program at 3 bases with 67 aircraft training 1,200 special operations, personnel recovery, and distinguished visitor airlift students in 22 crew positions.



Raised in Akron, Ohio; Col Ross earned his commission from the United States Air Force Academy in 1999. A Command Pilot with 4,253 flight hours in the MC-130H, U-28A, UH-1N, and HH-60 aircraft, Col Ross has flown combat missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Philippines, Yemen, and Syria. He commanded the 34th Special Operations Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Florida, employing the U-28A Draco aircraft, and was responsible for global special operations taskings as the Air Force component member of USSOCOM. He commanded, planned, prepared, and executed U-28A missions providing manned fixed-wing on-demand and surge capability for tactical airborne intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance and targeting in support of special operations forces

Col Ross is married to the former Stacie Honeycutt of Myrtle Beach, SC. They have one child, Jack.

EDUCATION

1999 Bachelor of Science, Biology, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
2004 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base (AFB), Ala.
2008 Master of Arts, International Relations, Troy University, Troy, Ala.
2008 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
2012 Master of Arts, Defense Decision Making and Planning, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif.
2014 Joint Forces Staff College, NSA Hampton Roads, Va.
2016 Air War College, by correspondence

ASSIGNMENTS

October 1992-June 1993, Basic Military Training, Guidance and Control Technical Training School, Lackland AFB, Texas, Keesler AFB, Miss.
June 1993-July 1994, Guidance and Control Technician, Minot AFB, N.D.
July 1994-June 1999, Cadet, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
August 1999-June 2000, Assistant Regional Director of Admissions, University of Akron, Akron, Ohio
June 2000-June 2001, Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Columbus AFB, Miss., Corpus Christi, Texas

June 2001-September 2002, Student, C-130E and MC-130H Initial Qualification Training, Little Rock AFB, Ark., Kirtland AFB, N.M.

September 2002-September 2004, Current Operations, Assistant Flight Commander, 1st Special Operations Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan

September 2004-October 2005, Current Operations, 15th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

October 2005-June 2009, Flight Commander, Instructor/Evaluator Pilot, Chief of Stan/Eval, 319th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

June 2009-December 2010, Chief of Stan/Eval PC-12/U-28 Branch, 1st Special Operations Group, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

December 2010-March 2012, Student, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif.

April 2012-April 2015, Chief, EUCOM then AFRICOM Global Support Group, USSOCOM, MacDill AFB, Fla.

July 2015-July 2017, Operations Officer, 1st Special Operations Air Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

July 2017-July 2018, Commander, 34th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

August 2018-January 2020, Deputy Commander, 58th Operations Group, Kirtland AFB, Fla.

January 2020-June 2020, Director, Commander's Action Group, 58th Special Operations Wing, Kirtland AFB, Fla.

July 2020-May 2021, Director, Strategic Plans and Policy, Special Operations Command-Korea, Camp Humphreys, Korea

June 2021-July 2023, Commander, 316th Operations Group, Joint Base Andrews, Md.

July 2023-Present, Chief of Staff, Special Operations Command-North, Peterson Space Force Base, Co.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit

Bronze Star Medal

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters

Air Medal with sixteen Oak Leaf Clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Air Force Achievement Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster

AVIATION EXPERIENCE

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: More than 4,200 (2,067 combat)

Aircraft flown: T-37, T-44, C-130E, MC-130H, U-28A, PC-12, UH-1N, HH-60G, MC-130J, HC-130J, CV-22

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant June 2, 1999

First Lieutenant June 2, 2001

Captain June 2, 2003

Major February 1, 2009

Lieutenant Colonel July 1, 2014

Colonel July 1, 2020

(Current as of August 2023)