



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL RICHARD A. CARRELL

Colonel Richard A. Carrell is the Vice Commander, Air Force Safety Center, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. The center develops, implements, executes and evaluates all Air Force aviation, occupational, weapons, space and nuclear surety programs to preserve combat capability and save lives. Additional missions are to develop strategic guidance to promote safety awareness, provide technical support and oversight for mishap investigations, evaluate safety programs to ensure policy implementation, direct the Air Force Risk Management program and provide accredited education to safety professionals across the Department of Defense.

Prior to his current assignment he was the Commander, 58th Operations Group at Kirtland Air Force Base. Before coming to New Mexico, Colonel Carrell was the Director of Counterterrorism Strategy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Combatting Terrorism, Counterterrorism Partnerships. Colonel Carrell was a student at the National War College, Fort McNair, D.C. He is a 1995 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy. After earning his navigator wings in 1997, Colonel Carrell served in various flying assignments in both Japan and Florida, primarily as an MC-130 navigator. He commanded the 15th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, FL and served as an expeditionary squadron and group commander in Afghanistan. He is an evaluator navigator and weapons officer, graduating from the United States Air Force Weapons School as a Distinguished Graduate in 2006. Colonel Carrell has participated in Operation Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In 2005, his crew garnered the William H. Tunner award as the United States Air Force's Outstanding Airlift Aircrew of the Year.



Colonel Carrell is married to Carmen Carrell of Kansas City, Missouri. They have two children, Scott and Sam.

EDUCATION

1994 Fund for American Studies, Georgetown University, D.C.
1995 Bachelor of Science in Economics, United States Air Force Academy, CO
2000 Squadron Officer's School, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL
2005 Masters of Arts in Economics, University of Oklahoma, OK
2006 Distinguished Graduate, United States Air Force Weapons School
2006 Air Command and Staff College, correspondence
2009 Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS
2010 Air War College, correspondence
2015 Masters of Science in National Security Strategy, National War College, Fort McNair, D.C.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Jul 1995 -- Dec 1995, Intercollegiate Administrative Assistant, USAF Academy, CO
2. Dec 1995 -- Sep 1997, Undergraduate Navigator Training, C-130 Qualification Course
3. Sep 1997 -- Mar 2001, MC-130P Navigator, 9th Special Operations Squadron, Eglin AFB, FL
4. Mar 2001 -- Mar 2002, MC-130H Navigator, 1st Special Operations Squadron, Kadena AB, Japan
5. Mar 2002 -- Apr 2003, Group Executive Officer, 353rd Special Operations Group, Kadena AB, Japan
6. Apr 2003 -- Jun 2004, Flight Commander, 1st Special Operations Squadron, Kadena AB, Japan
7. July 2004 -- Jun 2007, Evaluator Navigator/Flight CC, 15th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, FL
8. June 2007 -- Jun 2008, Chief of Group Current Ops, 1st Special Operations Group, Hurlburt Field, FL
9. July 2008 -- July 2009, Student, Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS
10. July 2009 -- June 2010, Chief of Safety, 353rd Special Operations Group, Kadena AB, Japan

11. June 2010 -- May 2012, Operations Officer, 1st Special Operations Squadron, Kadena AB, Japan
12. June 2012-- Dec 2013, Commander, 15th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, FL
13. Dec 2013 -- July 2014, Inspector General, 1st Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, FL
14. July 2014 -- June 2015, National War College Student, Washington, DC.
15. June 2015 -- June 2017, Director of CT Strategy, OASD SO/LIC, Pentagon, VA
16. June 2017 -- June 2020, Commander, 58th Operations Group, Kirtland AFB, NM
17. June 2020 -- Present, Vice Commander, Air Force Safety Center, Kirtland AFB, NM

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Master Navigator Flight Hours: 3300+

Combat Hours: 237

Aircraft Flown: MC-130H, MC-130P, C-130E, HC-130J, MC-130J

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Superior Service Medal

Legion of Merit

Bronze Star Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters

Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 1995

First Lieutenant May 1997

Captain May 1999

Major July 2005

Lieutenant Colonel February 2010

Colonel April 2016

(Current as of July 2020)