



# BIOGRAPHY

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES S. LEE

Lieutenant Colonel James S. Lee is the Commander of the Air Force Element, Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), Monterey, California. He leads a unit of 130 Air Force Officer and Enlisted students competitively selected to attend NPS in-residence programs.

Prior to this position, Lieutenant Colonel Lee was the Director of Air Force Programs at Joint United States Military Affairs Group – Korea (JUSMAG-K), the security cooperation organization of the United States Embassy in Seoul, Republic of Korea (ROK), in which he managed the ROK acquisition of F-35, F-15K, and KF-16 aircraft in 274 Foreign Military Sales cases valued at \$17.5B. Additionally, Lieutenant Colonel Lee served as the Aide-de-Camp to the UNC/CFC/USFK Commander and as the Deputy Chief of the Alliance Policy Division, where he oversaw development of ROK-US Alliance strategic policies related to the Conditions-based OPCON Transition Plan.

Lieutenant Colonel Lee also served as the Deputy Director of Operations of the 353d Special Operations Group at Kadena Air Base, Japan, where he was responsible for the command and control of INDOPACOM's special operations aviation force for the purposes of countering revisionist states, building partnerships, and supporting various other TSOC and SOCOM initiatives.

Lieutenant Colonel Lee was born in Seoul, Korea and immigrated to New York City at seven years of age. He attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and entered the Air Force in 2006 through the Officer Training School. He began his career in the special operations community, with multiple combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan in support of OIF and OEF. Following that, he built partnerships amongst Indo-Pacific nations through many special operations engagements and exchanges. In 2016, Lieutenant Colonel Lee was selected to become an INDOPACOM Foreign Area Officer.

Lieutenant Colonel Lee is a Senior Foreign Area Officer, a Senior Combat Systems Officer on the MC-130H Combat Talon II with over 2,200 flying hours (including 719 hours of combat time), and a graduate of the United States Air Force Weapons School.

#### EDUCATION

- 2005 Bachelor of Science, Aerospace Engineering, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL
- 2012 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL
- 2012 Masters of Arts, International Relations, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK
- 2014 U.S. Air Force Weapons School, Nellis Air Force Base, NV
- 2017 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL, by correspondence
- 2018 Foreign Area Officer Fellowship, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA
- 2021 Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL, by correspondence



## **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. November 2006 – February 2009, Student, Combat Systems Officer training, 12th Flying Training Wing, Randolph AFB, TX
2. February 2009 – March 2012, MC-130H Electronic Warfare Officer, Scheduling Officer, Executive Officer, 15th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, FL
3. March 2012 – August 2012, MC-130H Instructor Electronic Warfare Officer, Executive Officer, 15th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, FL
4. August 2012 – September 2014, MC-130H Evaluator Electronic Warfare Officer, Standards and Evaluations Officer, 1st Special Operations Squadron, Kadena AFB, Japan
5. September 2014 – January 2015, Chief of Tactics, 1st Special Operations Squadron, Kadena AFB, Japan
6. January 2015 – May 2017, Assistant Director of Operations, 1st Special Operations Squadron, Kadena AFB, Japan
7. May 2017 – June 2018, Deputy Chief, Alliance Policy Division, Combined Forces Command, Yongsan Garrison, Korea
8. June 2018 – November 2018, Aide-de-Camp to the Commander, UNC/CFC/USFK, Yongsan Garrison, Korea
9. May 2019 – August 2020, Deputy Director of Operations, 353rd Special Operations Group, Kadena AFB, Japan
10. August 2020 – June 2023, Director of Air Force Programs, Joint United States Military Affairs Group – Korea, U.S. Embassy Seoul, Korea
11. June 2023 – present, Commander, Air Force Element, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA

## **SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS**

1. May 2017 – June 2018, Deputy Chief, Alliance Policy Division, Combined Forces Command, Yongsan Garrison, Korea
2. June 2018 – November 2018, Aide-de-Camp to the Commander, UNC/CFC/USFK, Yongsan Garrison, Korea
3. August 2020 – June 2023, Director of Air Force Programs, Joint United States Military Affairs Group – Korea, U.S. Embassy Seoul, Korea

## **FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Rating: Senior Combat Systems Officer

Flight Hours: 2,284

Combat Hours: 718

Aircraft Flown: MC-130H, AC-130U

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Air Medal with seven oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

Joint Service Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Joint Service Achievement Medal

Combat Action Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal

## **OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS**

2009 Distinguished Graduate, Combat System Officer training, 12th Flying Training Wing, Randolph AFB, TX

2014 Flying Award, U.S. Air Force Weapons School, Nellis Air Force Base, NV