



TECHNICAL SERGEANT LORENZA M. KATES JR.

Technical Sergeant Lorenza M. Kates Jr. serves as the Senior Enlisted Leader at the Squadron Officer School, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, where he plays a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of senior Air Force leaders. The school annually trains over 4,200 Department of the Air Force captains, civilians, and international military officers, honing their ability to think strategically, communicate with impact, and lead effectively in the joint environment. With a distinguished team of military and civilian faculty, the school delivers cutting-edge Professional Military Education curricula that prepares students to excel in senior leadership positions across the Air Force.

Prior to this assignment, TSgt Kates was assigned as the Assistant, Postal Detachment Chief for the United States Air Forces in Europe Air Postal Squadron, stationed at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, with operations based in Istanbul, Türkiye. The mission of the USAFE Air Postal Squadron is to support global combat operations by ensuring the effective execution of postal operations within Europe and Africa, facilitating timely, cost-effective, and efficient mail services. In his previous role, he led a team of 16 military and host nation partners, managing the complex \$1.5 Million postal transportation operation at Istanbul International Airport, which serves as Europe's fourth largest Aerial Mail Terminal and Mail Control Activity and is the second busiest airport in Europe.



Sergeant Kates entered the Air Force in August 2011 and completed the Knowledge Operations Management Course at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, graduating in December 2011. He began his career in the 607th Air Operations Center as a Knowledge Operations Management Apprentice and has since held various administrative positions, including roles in the Special Security Office, Postal Operations, and Commander's Support Staff. He has deployed to Bagram in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

EDUCATION

2011 Basic Military Training, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas
2011 Knowledge Operations Management Technical Training School, Keesler AFB, Miss.
2015 Airman Leadership School, Davis-Monthan, Ariz.
2016 Associate of Applied Science Information Resources Management, Community College of the Air Force
2020 Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education I, by correspondence
2024 Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Kapaun Air Station, Germany

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 2011 - October 2011, Trainee, Basic Military Training, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas
2. October 2011 - December 2011, Student, Knowledge Operations Management Apprentice Course, Keesler AFB, Miss.
3. February 2012 - January 2013, 607th Air Operations Center, Knowledge Operations Management Journeyman, Osan AB, Korea
4. January 2013 - May 2014, Knowledge Operations Manager Journeyman, 355th Communications Squadron Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
5. May 2014 - April 2016, Administrative Support, 41st Electronic Combat Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
(April 2014 - November 2014, Postal Mail Clerk, 455th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, Bagram)
6. December 2014 - November 2016, Group Staff Administration, 55th Electronic Combat Group, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
7. September 2016 - November 2017, Administration Journeyman, 901st Special Operations Maintenance Squadron, Hurlburt Field AFB, Florida.
8. November 2017 - July 2020, Commander's Support Staff Supervisor, 801st Special Operations Maintenance

Squadron, Hurlburt Field AFB, Fla.

(November 2018 - April 2019, NCOIC, Commander's Support Staff, Yokota AB, Japan)

9. July 2020 - January 2022, NCOIC, Commander's Support Staff, 1st Special Operations Air Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field AFB, Fla.
10. January 2022 - December 2022, NCOIC, Wing Administration, 24 Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field AFB, Fla.
11. December 2022 - December 2024, Assistant Postal Detachment Chief, USAFE Air Postal Squadron, Istanbul, Türkiye, Ramstein AB, Germany
12. January 2025 - May 2025, Section Chief, Wing Command Staff, Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
May 2025 - Current, Senior Enlisted Leader, Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Air and Space Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air and Space Achievement Medal

Meritorious Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters

Air Force Good Conduct Medal with two oak leaf clusters

National Defense Service Medal

Afghanistan Campaign Medal one service star

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Medal

Korean Defense Service Medal

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal

Air and Space Overseas Service Ribbon Short with one oak leaf cluster

Air and Space Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border

Air and Space Longevity Service Award with two oak leaf clusters

USAF NCO PME Graduate Ribbon with one oak leaf cluster

Air and Space Training Ribbon

NATO Medal

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2014 Airman of the Quarter, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

2014 Airman of the Quarter, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

2023 Diamond Sharp Award, Istanbul, Türkiye.

2023 Incirlik Top III Unsung Hero, Istanbul, Türkiye

2023 Headquarters USAFE 3F5X1 Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter, United States Air Forces in Europe, Istanbul, Türkiye, Ramstein AB, Germany

2023 A1 Force Support Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, USAFE Air Postal Squadron, Istanbul, Türkiye, Ramstein AB, Germany

2024 Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter, Istanbul, Türkiye, Ramstein AB, Germany

2024 Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter, Istanbul, Türkiye, Ramstein AB, Germany

2024 Lance P. Sijan of the Year, USAFE Air Postal Squadron, Istanbul, Türkiye, Ramstein AB, Germany

2024 Blacks in Government of the Year, USAFE Air Postal Squadron, Istanbul, Türkiye, Ramstein AB, Germany

2024 Wing 3F5X1 Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter, Istanbul, Türkiye, Incirlik AB, Türkiye

2024 A1 Chief Master Sergeant Benken Administrative Professional of the Year, United States Air Forces in Europe, Istanbul, Türkiye, Ramstein AB, Germany

2024 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Headquarters United States Air Forces in Europe, Istanbul, Türkiye, Ramstein AB, Germany

2025 Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter, Squadron Officer School, Air and Education and Training Command, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2025 Lance P. Sijan of the Year, Air University Headquarters, Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2025 Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter, Squadron Officer School, Air and Education and Training Command, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Airman August 16, 2011

Airman First Class October 28, 2011

Senior Airman December 16, 2013

Staff Sergeant September 1, 2018

Technical Sergeant March 1, 2022

(Current as of December 2025)

