



# BIOGRAPHY

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### COLONEL KEVIN R. "BUDDY" LEE

Col. Kevin R. Lee commanded the 409th Air Expeditionary Group, Air Base 201, Agadez, Niger, the Air Force's only Air Expeditionary Group in Northwest Africa. He led over seven hundred deployed Airmen, Soldiers and contractors operating two air bases, including a strategically located, six-thousand, two-hundred-foot airfield, with two expeditionary air base squadrons, an Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, an Airfield Operations Flight, an Electromagnetic Warfare Combat Detachment, a US Army Civil Affairs Company and six-hundred million dollars in assets supporting over one billion dollars in assets for multiple DoD and interagency operations.

Col. Lee graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 2000 and attended pilot training at Whiting Field, FL and Corpus Christ, Naval Air Station. His first assignment was to Moody AFB, GA. Flying the HC-130P "King," he upgraded to instructor pilot and served in many positions including Group Executive Officer. His next assignment was to Cannon, AFB, N.M where he flew the MC-130W "Combat Spear," the MC-130W "Dragon Spear" and the AC-130W "Stinger II." From 2012 to 2014, he served on staff at Headquarters, United States Air Forces in Europe, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.



Following this assignment, he went to Kirtland AFB, NM and commanded the 58th Training Squadron. From July 2018 to June 2021, he was the Branch Chief for Future Operations-West Africa, USAFRICOM, Stuttgart, Germany. Prior to his current assignment, he served as the Division Chief, Operational Planning & Strategy at Headquarters, Air Education and Training Command, Randolph AFB, TX.

A Command Pilot with over 3,200 hours in the T-34, T-44, C-130E/H, HC-130P/N/J and MC-130P/W/J, Col. Lee has had numerous deployments to Uzbekistan, Djibouti, Ecuador, Afghanistan, Qatar, Iraq, Turkey and Niger in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, US SOUTHCOM Counter-Drug Operations, IRAQI FREEDOM, INVERTED LIGHT, GALACTIC HORIZON, NOMAD SHADOW, JUNIPER SHIELD, JUNIPER MICRON and ATLANTIC RESOLVE.

#### EDUCATION

2000 Bachelor of Science, Astronautical Engineering, United States Air Force Academy, Colo.

2005 Master of Arts, National Security Studies, American Military University, Va.

2006 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

2010 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence

2012 Master of Science, Military Operational Art and Science, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2015 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence

2019 Masters of Science, Joint Campaign Planning and Strategy, Joint Advanced Warfighting School, Norfolk, Va.

#### ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 2000-June 2001, Pilot Training, Whiting Field Naval Air Station, Fla.

2. June 2001-February 2002, Pilot Training, Corpus Christ NAS, Texas

3. February 2002-August 2002, Initial C-130 Training, Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.
4. August 2002-February 2003, Initial HC-130P Training, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
5. February 2003-February 2006, Pilot/Tactics Officer/Chief, Squadron Training, 71st Rescue Squadron, Moody AFB, Ga.
6. February 2006-June 2008, Instructor Pilot/Group Executive Officer, 347th Rescue Group, Moody AFB, Ga.
7. June 2008-October 2009, Instructor Pilot/Chief, Student Training Flight, 73rd Special Operations Squadron, Cannon AFB, N.M.
8. October 2009-June 2011, Evaluator Pilot/Chief, Standardization and Evaluation, 551st SOS, Cannon AFB, N.M.
9. June 2011-June 2012, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
10. June 2012-June 2014, Functional Area Manager/Program Monitor, Headquarters, United States Air Forces in Europe, Directorate of Training and Readiness, Ramstein Air Base, Germany
11. June 2014-May 2015, Chief of Safety, 58th Special Operations Wing, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
12. May 2015-April 2016, Inspector General, 58th SOW, Kirtland AFB, NM
13. April 2016-February 2017, Operations Officer, 58th Training Squadron, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
14. February 2017-June 2018, Commander, 58th TRS, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
15. July 2018-July 2019, Student, Joint Advanced Warfighting School, Norfolk Naval Annex, Va.
16. July 2018-June 2021, Branch Chief, Future Operations, West Africa, United States Africa Command, Germany
17. June 2021-May 2022, Division Chief, Operational Planning and Strategy, Air Education and Training Command Headquarters, Randolph AFB, Texas
18. May 2022-May 2023, Commander, 409th Air Expeditionary Group, Niger

#### **SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS**

1. July 2018-June 2021, Branch Chief, Future Operations, West Africa, United States Africa Command, Germany, as a lieutenant colonel

#### **FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Rating: command pilot

Flight hours: more than 3,200

Aircraft Flown: T-34C, T-44, C-130E, HC-130P/N/J and MC-130P/W/J

#### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Legion of Merit

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Achievement Medal

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Joint Service Achievement Medal

Army Achievement Medal

France *Médaille de la Défense Nationale* - Armée de l'air (National Defense Medal – Air Force)

#### **OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS**

Top Third, Squadron Officer School

Air Force Special Operations Command Pilot of the Year, 2009

Distinguished Graduate, Air Command and Staff College

Outstanding Graduate, Air War College (in correspondence)

#### **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

*Second Lieutenant May 31, 2000*

*First Lieutenant June 1, 2002*

*Captain, June 2, 2004*

*Major, June 1, 2010*

*Lieutenant Colonel, June 1, 2015*

*Colonel, June 1, 2021*

(CURRENT AS OF JUNE 2023)