

Lieutenant Colonel James Kelly Jr BIO



Lieutenant Colonel James Kelly Jr hails from Morgan City, Louisiana and was commissioned as an Aviation Officer in the U.S. Army upon graduation from Southern University & A&M College in 2005. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Southern University & A&M College, and a Master of Science Degree in Military Operational Art and Science from Air University.

LTC Kelly's command assignments include command of an Air Assault Platoon in Alpha Company, 2-82nd Assault Helicopter Battalion (AHB) from 2007-2009 in the 82nd Airborne Division (ABD) at Fort Liberty, NC; command of Alpha Company VIP, 2-501st General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB) from 2012-2014 in the 1st Armored Division (AD) at Fort Bliss, TX with service in Operation Enduring Freedom - Afghanistan; command of Special Mission Wing (SMW), Special Operations Advisory Team- North (SOAT-N), Special Operations Advisory Group (SOAG) from 2020-2021 in the NATO Special Operations Component Command - Afghanistan (NSOCC-A) with service in Operation Resolute Support - Afghanistan.

LTC Kelly's staff assignments include Assistant S-3 for 2-82 AHB, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) from 2009-2010 at Fort Liberty, NC with service in Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan; S-3 for 2-501 GSAB, 1st AD CAB at Fort Bliss, TX from 2011-2012; Aviation (Assault & HHC) Observer Coach/ Trainer (OC/T), Eagle Team Operations Group at Fort Irwin, CA from 2014-2016; Executive Officer for 2-6 CAV, 25th Infantry Division (ID) CAB at Wheeler AAF, Hawaii from 2017-2018; S-3 for 2-25th AHB, 25th ID CAB at Wheeler AAF, Hawaii from 2018-2019; Director of Operations (J3) for SMW SOAT-N, SOAG from 2019-2020 with service in Operation Resolute Support - Afghanistan; and the Aviation Organizational Integrator for G-3/5/7 Force Management Division, HQs FORSCOM at Fort Bragg, NC from 2021-2024.

LTC Kelly is a Senior Army Aviator rated in the OH-58A/C Kiowa, the UH-60L Blackhawk, and the MI-17 helicopter. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Air Medal (Numeral 2 and w/ C Device), the Army Commendation Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Achievement Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Meritorious Unit Citation, the Combat Action Badge, the Senior Army Aviator Badge, and the Parachutist Badge.