

Aviation Center of Excellence



**Flight School
Graduation
Ceremony**



AH-64
APACHE

UH-60
BLACK HAWK



CH-47
CHINOOK

C-12
HURON



Flight School Class 26-021

August 20, 2026



**UNITED STATES ARMY
AVIATION CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
FORT RUCKER, ALABAMA**

Order of Ceremony

Welcome..... Master of Ceremony

*** Invocation.....** Chaplain

*** *National Anthem*.....** Ceremonial Support Services

Music by John Stafford Smith, 1780

Lyrics by Francis Scott Key, 1814

Adopted as the National Anthem of the United States, 1931

Introduction of Guest Speaker..... LTC Kyle J. Maki

Commander

1st Battalion

13th Aviation Regiment

Fort Rucker, Alabama

Address..... COL Sean C. Keefe

Director

Transformation Integration Directorate

United States Army

Aviation Center of Excellence

Fort Rucker, Alabama

Announcement of Graduates..... Master of Ceremony

Presentation of Wings..... LTC Maki

**** Above The Best, Aviation Branch Song**

Music and lyrics by Jo Johnston 1987

**** The Army Goes Rolling Along, The Army Song**

Music by John Phillip Sousa, 1917

Lyrics by Harold W. Arberg, 1956

Conclusion..... Master of Ceremony

** Please stand. Gentlemen, remove your headdress for the National Anthem.*

*** Lyrics on back cover.*

Guest Speaker

COLONEL SEAN C. KEEFE

**DIRECTOR OF THE TRANSFORMATION INTEGRATION DIRECTORATE
UNITED STATES ARMY AVIATION CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**

Colonel Sean Keefe, from Buffalo, New York, is the Director of the Transformation Integration Directorate at the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence at Fort Rucker, Alabama. He was commissioned in May 2001 from Canisius College with a degree in Psychology. His advanced education includes a Master of Arts in Managerial Economics from the University of Oklahoma, a Master of Military Studies from the U.S. Marine Corps University, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Colonel Keefe began his career as a Chemical Officer before transferring to the Aviation Branch in May 2004, qualifying in the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior and UH-60M Black Hawk. With more than 25 years of service, he has held numerous leadership and staff roles, including deployments supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom (twice) and Operation Atlantic Resolve.

His significant leadership roles include Commander of Charlie Troop, 6-6th Cavalry Squadron; Alpha Company, 1-145th Aviation Battalion; and the 96th Aviation Support Battalion. He also served as Director of Aviation Training and Doctrine. Key staff assignments include Battalion and Brigade Operations Officer in the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, Defense Trade Analyst at the U.S. Department of State, Chief of the Congressional Affairs Officer at HQDA G-3/5/7, and Aviation Enablers Branch Chief at HQDA G-8 in the Pentagon.

Colonel Keefe's awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medals (four Bronze Stars), Combat Action Badge, and Senior Army Aviator Badge. He is married to Melissa Manaresi and has two children, Tyler and Leah.

Aviation Commissioned Officers

1LT Adanlawo, Lukman O.

2LT Smith, Parker C.

CPT Darden, John T.

1LT Sykes, Shelby R.

1LT Helsley, Alexander M.

1LT Vendetti, Frank D.

2LT Jacobs, Sherrie S.

1LT Wagner, Logan J.

2LT Jordan, Veronika T.

1LT Wallace, Isella G.

2LT Magolan, Caitlin J.

2LT White, Zachary C.

1LT Neogi, Malika

2LT Wright, Jacob A.

CPT Nevarez, Christian C.

1LT Young, John A.

1LT Sheng, Diego T.

CPT Zammit, Alexa S.

Class 26-020: Aviation Basic Officer Leader Course



*The engraved Sterling Silver Wings presented to the
Distinguished Graduates are provided by the
Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA).*

Aviation Warrant Officers

WO1 Barr, Zachary M.

WO1 Ortega Cenicerros, Gilberto

WO1 Caiata, Joseph V.

WO1 Pape, Michael T.

WO1 Camlin, Evan M.

WO1 Rhoden, Hannah M.

WO1 Firman, Trevor D.

WO1 Saal, Orion E.

WO1 Goins, Tanner D.

WO1 Sandoval, Bruce A.

WO1 Harrison, Ian P.

WO1 Snipes, Joseph D.

WO1 Hickok, Elisha P.

WO1 Soucier, Scott W.

WO1 Keenan, Daniel J., Jr.

WO1 Toribio, Gabriel

WO1 Kennedy, Trevor R.

WO1 Vancura, John A.

WO1 Marlowe, Carson Chase W.

WO1 Whiting, John P.

WO1 Mutuku, Kyle J.

WO1 Woelke, Brooke A.

WO1 Newman, Ramsay A.

Class 26-020: Aviation Warrant Officer Basic Course

AVIATION BRANCH SONG ABOVE THE BEST

High above the best. High above the best.
We are Army Aviation USA.
Proud and strong.
We meet the test.
Skies filled with thunder.
Wearing silver wings upon our chest.
We meet the needs of Ground Command
As we aid the Nation's quest.
Army Aviation, flying high above the best!

Lyrics and Music by Jo Johnston, 1987
Adopted as the official song of Army Aviation, 1987

THE ARMY SONG THE ARMY GOES ROLLING ALONG

March along, sing our song, with the Army of the free.
Count the brave, count the true, who have fought to victory.
We're the Army and proud of our name!
We're the Army and proudly proclaim:
First to fight for the right,
And to build the Nation's might,
And The Army Goes Rolling Along.
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle's won,
And The Army Goes Rolling Along.
Then it's hi hi hey, the Army's on its way
Count off the cadence loud and strong
For where'er we go, you will always know
That The Army Goes Rolling Along.

Music by John Philip Sousa, 1917
Lyrics by Harold W. Arberg, 1956
Adopted as the official song of the Army, 1956