

United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence



**Flight School
Graduation
Ceremony**



AH-64
APACHE

UH-60
BLACK HAWK



CH-47
CHINOOK

C-12
HURON



Flight School Class 25-019

July 24, 2025



**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 Ryan C. Sommer
Commander
1st Battalion
212th Aviation Regiment
Fort Rucker, Alabama

Address.....COL Nicholas D. Ryan
Director, Army Capability Manager for
Unmanned Aircraft Systems
Aviation Capabilities Development Integration Directorate
Futures and Concepts Center, Army Futures Command
Fort Rucker, Alabama

Announcement of Graduates.....Master of Ceremony

Presentation of Wings.....LTC Sommer

* ***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. Lyrics on back cover. Gentlemen, remove your headdress for the National Anthem.*

Commanders and Staff

Commanding General

Major General Clair A. Gill

Deputy Commanding General

Brigadier General Kenneth C. Cole

Chief Warrant Officer of the Branch

Chief Warrant Officer Five Robert Scott Slider

Commander, 1st Aviation Brigade

Colonel Jason T. Woodward

Commander, 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment

Lieutenant Colonel Matthew R. Stockton

Commander, B Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment

Captain Natalie M. Schorr

Commander, D Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment

Captain Jose C. Ramoslopez

Commander, 1st Battalion, 13th Aviation Regiment

Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey P. Gaines

Commander, 110th Aviation Brigade

Colonel Dennis K. Hill

Commander, 1st Battalion, 11th Aviation Regiment

Lieutenant Colonel Sean T. Smith

Commander, 1st Battalion, 14th Aviation Regiment

Lieutenant Colonel Brian L. Haas

Commander, 1st Battalion, 212th Aviation Regiment

Lieutenant Colonel Ryan C. Sommer

Commander, 1st Battalion, 223d Aviation Regiment

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew M. Bartlett

Guest Speaker

COLONEL NICHOLAS D. RYAN

**Army Capability Manager for Unmanned Aircraft Systems
Aviation Capability Development and Integration Directorate
Futures and Concepts Center, Army Futures Command
FORT RUCKER, ALABAMA**

Colonel Nicholas Ryan is the Director of the Army Capability Manager for Unmanned Aircraft Systems at Fort Novosel, Alabama, within the Aviation Capabilities Development Integration Directorate, Futures and Concepts Center, Army Futures Command.

He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Aviation Branch. After attending the Officer Basic Course and Flight School at Fort Rucker, Alabama, he became an Aviation Officer and CH-47 Pilot.

Throughout his career, Colonel Ryan has completed operational assignments and deployments to South Korea, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Europe. From 2003 to 2006, he was a Headquarters Platoon Leader, Flight Platoon Leader, Battalion S2, and Assistant Battalion S3 in the 2-52 Aviation Regiment, 17th Aviation Brigade at Camp Humphreys, South Korea. From 2007 to 2010, he was the D Company Commander, Battalion S4, and Battalion Assistant S3 for the 2-4 General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, at Fort Hood, Texas, and deployed to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom.

From 2011-2015, he served as the Brigade Aviation Officer for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division (AD), the Battalion S3 for 2-501st Aviation Regiment, 1AD Combat Aviation Brigade, and the Brigade S3 for the 1AD Combat Aviation Brigade at Fort Bliss, Texas.

From 2020-2022, he served as the Battalion Commander of the 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, and deployed to Europe for Operation Atlantic Resolve.

Colonel Ryan has completed numerous broadening assignments in support of the United States Army. From 2015-2016, he was an Aviation Observer, Coach, and Trainer for the Mission Command Training Program at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. From 2016-2018, he was the Command Inspector General for the 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. From 2018-2020, he served as the J3 Aviation Officer for Joint Task Force North, United States Northern Command, Fort Bliss, Texas.

He has attended Professional Military Education at the Aviation Captains Career Course, Army Command and General Staff College, Kansas State University, the Joint and Combined Warfighting School, and the National War College, and holds Master of Science degrees in Adult Education and National Security Strategy.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal for Valor, the Army Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Badge, Senior Aviator Badge, and Air Assault Badge.

Colonel Ryan is a native of Espanola, New Mexico. He is married to Lieutenant Colonel Lindsay Ann Ryan, from Buffalo, New York, who is also an active duty United States Army Aviator. They have been married for 17 years and have three children together: Jordynn (13), Jacob (11), and Jessica (10).

Aviation Commissioned Officers

Class 25-019: Aviation Basic Officer Leader Course

2LT Arkle, Gabrielle F.

1LT Cannon, Alexander J.

1LT Crawford, Evan G.

2LT Fields, Dillon R.

2LT Hegedty, Logan J.

2LT Klebs, Allison R.

2LT Klepper, Bianca C.

1LT Lasater, Austin A.

1LT McGurrin, Patrick M.

1LT McKinney, Stephen W.

1LT Morrison, Robert A.

1LT Patel, Bhavan D.

CPT Potter, Montgomery E.

2LT Schneiderhan, Jensen E.

1LT Slevin, Madison E.

1LT Tuttle, Kord A.



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

Aviation Warrant Officers

WO1 Alvarez Diaz, Lazaro E.	WO1 Mohamed Hassan, Omar M.
WO1 Arredondo, Carlos A.	WO1 Myers, Michael D.
WO1 Black, Corbin M.	WO1 O’Gorman-Swanson, Grayson J.
CW2 Brainerd, Daniel S.	WO1 Olmstead, Seth L.
WO1 Calle Flores, David J.	WO1 Ramirez Vega, Marco A.
WO1 Davison, Samuel L.	WO1 Rangel, Ramiro J., Jr.
WO1 Delarosa, Mark U.	WO1 Reid, Kallie M.
WO1 Gray, Bryan J.	WO1 Roa, Spencer N.
WO1 Gresham, Joshua D.	WO1 Sadek, Amir
WO1 Griffith, William T., Iii	WO1 Sanfeliz Rivera, Kenny
WO1 Kannegieter, Aaron R.	WO1 Stewart, Michael K.
WO1 Khalil, Eslam M.	WO1 Tello, Ramon
WO1 Kirby, Reece E.	WO1 Thompson, Andrew J.
WO1 Layman, Justin J.	WO1 Weaver Shull, Derek J.
WO1 Lokits, Kevin J., Jr.	WO1 Wheeler, Riley W.
WO1 Martinson, Roscoe W.	WO1 Woodbury, Paige A.

Class 25-019: Aviation Warrant Officer Basic Course



Photo courtesy of Grace Ellenberg, military spouse and photographer



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.

Music by John Philip Sousa, 1917

Lyrics by Harold W. Arberg, 1956

Adopted as the official song of the Army, 1956