



# BIOGRAPHY

AIR FORCE OPERATIONAL TEST & EVALUATION CENTER

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## COLONEL ERIK A. RIPPLE

Colonel Erik A. Ripple is the Director of Intelligence, Analyses, and Assessments for the Headquarters Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. As the U.S. Air Force's Operational Test Agency, AFOTEC's mission is to independently test and evaluate Air Force and Joint major acquisition systems in operationally realistic environments to inform warfighters and influence national resource decisions. Colonel Ripple's Directorate provides intelligence and analytical support and oversight to the operational test and evaluation of weapon systems from all major Air Force acquisition programs. His Directorate is responsible for ensuring the technical adequacy and credibility of all AFOTEC operational test plans and reports.



Prior to his assignment to AFOTEC, he served as the Deputy Director, Nuclear Technology and Integration Directorate, Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, Kirtland AFB. Colonel Ripple also served in Headquarters Air Force's Engine Room developing and defending our service's multi-billion dollar Program Objective Memorandum for four consecutive POM cycles. Prior to this assignment, he commanded a U.S. Special Operations Command detachment where he was dual-hatted as the Lead Developmental Test Organization for AC-130W and AC-130J gunship recapitalization efforts, as well as the System Program Office for Special Operations unique munitions, to include Laser Small Diameter Bomb, Griffin, and the Small Glide Munition. While assigned to HQ Air Force Special Operations Command, he served as an operational analyst guiding strategic planning and programming to better focus the Command's investment dollars, culminating as Executive Officer for the Deputy Commander. While assigned to HQ Air Force Space Command he served in various positions affecting the development and implementation of space and cyber capabilities, to include commanding the HQ Squadron. He completed undergraduate missile training and was assigned to the 490th Missile Squadron at Malmstrom AFB, Mont., where he commanded the Minuteman III, Intercontinental Ballistic Missile, concluding with duty as the Assistant Director of Operations. Colonel Ripple began his Air Force career as an operations research analyst assigned to the 53rd Wing at Eglin AFB, Fla., where he supported Operational Test & Evaluation of the F-16, EC-130H, E-3 and B-2 platforms. He has deployed in support of Operations Inherent Resolve, New Dawn, Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

Colonel Ripple received his commission through Officer Training School at Maxwell AFB, Ala. He has served in a variety of analytic, staff, and leadership positions within Air Force Combat Command, Air Force Global Strike Command, Air Force Space Command, Air Force Special Operations Command, U.S. Special Operations Command, Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, and the Air Staff.

### **EDUCATION:**

- 1995 Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics, University of California, Santa Cruz, Calif.
- 2005 Squadron Officers School (in-residence/correspondence), Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2009 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
- 2011 Master of Science degree in Statistics, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo.
- 2018 Air War College, by correspondence

## **ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. May 1999 – August 1999, officer trainee, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
2. October 1999 – September 2002, Operational Analyst, 68th Electronic Warfare Squadron, 53rd Wing, Air Combat Command, Eglin AFB, Fla.
3. October 2002 – September 2003, Operational Analyst, 28th Test Squadron, 53rd Wing, Air Combat Command, Eglin AFB, Fla.
4. October 2003 – September 2004, Chief, Integrated Investment Analysis, Plans and Programs Directorate, HQ Air Force Special Operations Command, Fla.
5. October 2004 – March 2006: Chief, Strategic Plans Analysis (ORSA), Plans and Programs Directorate, HQ Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
6. April 2006 – October 2006, student, Undergraduate Missile Training (Distinguished Graduate), 392nd Training Squadron, Air Education and Training Command, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
7. November 2006 – October 2009, ICBM Combat Crew (CD/CC; Squadron Command Post) and Assistant Director of Operations, 490th Missile Squadron, Air Force Global Strike Command, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.
8. November 2009 – December 2010, Senior Lessons Learned Analyst, Plans, Programs and Assessments Directorate, HQ Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, Colo.
9. January 2011 – June 2011, Deputy Chief, Operations Assessment Team, Strategy Division, 609th Air Operations Center, Combined Air Operations Center, Al Udeid AB Qatar (Deployed)
10. July 2011 – January 2012, Chief, Cyber Military Utility Branch, Plans, Programs and Assessments Directorate, HQ Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, Colo.
11. February 2012 – June 2012, Commander, HQ Squadron, Director of Staff, HQ Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, Colo.
12. June 2012 – September 2012, Chief, Analysis and Lessons Learned Branches, Operations Directorate, HQ Air Force Special Operations Command, Fla.
13. October 2012 – September 2013, Executive Officer, Deputy Commander, HQ Air Force Special Operations Command, Fla.
14. October 2013 – May 2017, Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command Combat Acquisition Detachment, Program Executive Office – Fixed Wing, HQ USSOCOM (GSU), Eglin AFB Fla.
15. June 2017 – March 2019, Chief, Program Assessment Branch, Plans and Programs, HQ Air Force, Pentagon, Washington D.C.
16. March 2019 – September 2019, Deputy Division Chief, Contributing Nations Coordination Division, CJ-5, Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait (Deployed)
17. September 2019 – June 2020, Chief, Program Objective Memorandum Development Branch, Plans and Programs, HQ Air Force, Pentagon, Washington D.C.
18. June 2020 – June 2021, Deputy Director, Nuclear Technology and Integration Directorate, Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, Air Force Materiel Command, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
19. June 2021 – present, Director of Intelligence, Analyses and Assessments, Headquarters Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Kirtland AFB, N.M.

## **ACQUISITION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (APDP) CERTIFICATIONS:**

Program Management (Level 3) – 2017  
Test and Evaluation (Level 3) -- 2017

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:**

Defense Meritorious Service Medal  
Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters  
Joint Service Commendation Medal  
Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters  
Air Force Achievement Medal

## **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:**

Second Lieutenant	Aug. 20, 1999
First Lieutenant	Aug. 20, 2001
Captain	Aug. 20, 2003
Major	June 1, 2008
Lieutenant Colonel	Dec. 1, 2014
Colonel	Nov. 1, 2020

(Current as of July 2021)