



# BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

## LIEUTENANT COLONEL KEVIN M. “PEEPS” PIEPER

Lt Col Kevin Pieper is Commander, 1st Air Force, Detachment 3, Patrick Space Force Base, Fla. Detachment 3 is tasked to provide War Department Human Space Flight Support to National Aeronautics and Space Administration Commercial Crew, Artemis, and Soyuz programs and is responsible for worldwide astronaut rescue, recover, and retrieval, medical operations, as well as nominal and contingency landing site support.

Lt Col Pieper entered the Air Force in May 2007 through ROTC from the University of North Dakota. He earned his pilot wings from Fort Rucker, Ala. And joined the Air Force’s Combat Search and Rescue forces as HH-60G Pave Hawk pilot in January 2011. In his first three assignments to Kadena AB, Japan; Moody AFB, Ga.; and Kirtland AFB, N.M.; Lieutenant Colonel Pieper served as Chief of Scheduling, Executive Officer, Chief of Mobility, Flight Commander, Chief of Squadron Standardization and Evaluations, Deputy Chief of Group Standardization and Evaluations, Assistant Director of Operations, and Group Resource Advisor and flew as Copilot, Aircraft Commander, Flight Lead, Instructor Pilot, and Evaluator Pilot. Prior to his current assignment, he served as Requirements Branch Chief, Assessments Division, Joint Personnel Recovery Agency, Joint Staff J-7, Fort Belvoir, Va.



Lieutenant Colonel Pieper has deployed extensively conducting Casualty Evacuation and Combat Search and Rescue as Pilot, Aircraft Commander, and Flight Lead to Afghanistan in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and FREEDOM SENTINEL as well as Squadron Director of Operations to Turkey in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE.

## EDUCATION

2007 Bachelor of Science, Atmospheric Sciences, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks.

2007 Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

2011 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence

2012 Master of Business Administration, Strategic Leadership, Trident University International, Cypress, Calif.

2013 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2017 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence

2021 Master of Military Operational Art and Science, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2022 Leadership Development Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2023 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence

2023 Strategic Broadening Certificate, Adversary Whole-of-Government Replication, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, Va

## ASSIGNMENTS

1. October 2007 – March 2008, Executive Officer, 5th Operations Support Squadron, Minot Air Force Base, N.D.
2. March 2008 – December 2008, Student, Joint-Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, Vance AFB, Okla.
3. December 2008 – July 2009, Student, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training-Helicopter, Fort Rucker, Ala.





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4. July 2009 – March 2010, Student, HH-60G Pilot Initial Qualification Training, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
5. March 2010 – March 2013, Executive Officer, HH-60G Flight Lead, 33d Rescue Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan (February 2011 – June 2011/September 2011 – November 2011/January 2012 – May 2012, HH-60G Copilot/Mission Pilot/Flight Lead, 83d Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan)
6. March 2013 – May 2017, Deputy Chief of Standardization and Evaluations, HH-60G Evaluator Pilot, 347th Rescue Group, Moody AFB, Ga. (February 2014 – June 2014/June 2015 – September 2015 HH-60G Flight Lead, 83d Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, Bagram AF, Afghanistan; September 2016 – January 2017, Director of Operations, 66th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, Diyarbakir Air Base, Turkey)
7. May 2017 – Jul 2020, Resource Advisor, HH-60G Evaluator Pilot, 58th Operational Group, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
8. July 2020 – Jun 2021, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
9. Jun 2021 – July 2023, Branch Chief, Assessments Division, Joint Personnel Recovery Agency, Fort Belvoir, Va.
10. July 2023 – June 2025, Director of Operations, 1st Air Force, Detachment 3, Patrick Space Force Base, Fla.
11. June 2025 – Present, Commander, 1st Air Force, Detachment 3, Patrick Space Force Base, Fla.

## SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 2021 – July 2023, Requirements Branch Chief, Joint Personnel Recovery Agency, Ft. Belvoir, Va., as a lieutenant colonel

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: more than 2,000 including 475 combat hours

Aircraft flown: T-6A, UH-1H, TH-1H, HH-60G, HH-60W

## MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Air Medal with "V" device and twelve oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air and Space Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air and Space Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Air Force Combat Action Medal

## OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2009 Distinguished Graduate, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training-Helicopter

2010 Distinguished Graduate, HH-60G Pilot Initial Qualification Training

2015 Company Grade Officer of the Year, 347th Rescue Group, Moody AFB, Ga.

2022 Operations Support Officer of the Year, Joint Personnel Recovery Agency, Ft Belvoir, Va.

## EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant July 3, 2007

First Lieutenant July 3, 2009

Captain July 3, 2011

Major June 1, 2017

Lieutenant Colonel February 1, 2022

(Current as of Jul 2025)

