

COL JAMES R. MEISINGER
Commander
1ST Space Brigade



COL James R. Meisinger assumed command of the 1st Space Brigade, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command on July 20, 2012.

COL Meisinger was commissioned from the United States Military Academy in 1987 as an infantry officer. He first served in the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., as a rifle platoon leader, anti-armor platoon leader, and mortar platoon leader. In 1990, he was assigned to B Company, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., as the weapons platoon leader (Operation Desert Storm). He also served as the assistant battalion S-3 (training). From 1993 to 1996, he served in the 3rd Bn, 12th Infantry, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany, as an assistant battalion S-3; commander, A Company; and commander, Headquarters Company. He then served as an assistant professor of Military Science at Oklahoma State University. In 1999, he deployed to Camp Red Cloud, Korea, serving for one year as the chief of Operations, 2nd Infantry Division.

In 2000, he was assigned to Army Space Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., where he served as a space operations officer, Army Space Support Team leader, and S-3 and executive officer of the 1st Space Battalion. He then completed three years at United States Strategic Command as a special assistant to the commander and the executive officer to the J-8. From 2006 to 2008, he served as the assistant chief of staff, G-7; then chief of the Space Support Element, and finally deputy G-3 of the 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga., deploying to Iraq for 15 months (Operation Iraqi Freedom). He graduated from the Naval War College in 2009 and returned to Peterson Air Force Base, serving as the chief of operations for USASMDC/ARSTRAT.

COL Meisinger's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (three oak leaf clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (two oak leaf clusters), the Army Achievement Medal (three oak leaf clusters), the Joint Meritorious Unit Award (one oak leaf cluster), the Meritorious Unit Citation, the National Defense Service Medal (two service stars), Southwest Asia Service Medal (two service stars), Iraq Campaign Medal Campaign Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korea Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon (third award), the Saudi Arabia Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Master Space Badge, the Master Parachute Badge, and Ranger Tab.

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