

5TH BATTALION & SIERRA CO Tactical Officer

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOEL FORTENBERRY

United States Air Force



Lieutenant Colonel Joel R. Fortenberry, USAF, Retired, is the 5TH BN and Sierra Company TAC Officer. His final active duty assignment was as Professor of Aerospace Studies and Commander, AFROTC Detachment 415, University of Minnesota. In 2005, Lt Col Fortenberry assumed command of the 509th Contracting Squadron, Whiteman AFB, MO, responsible for providing security deployed acquisition support and home base support to over 3,000 personnel and assets valued in excess of \$45 billion. From June 2003 to February 2005, he was Chief, Military Resources, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright Patterson AFB, OH. In this capacity, he coordinated all MAJCOM AEF taskings in support of Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom as well as the career development of a thousand person directorate. From June 2000 to June 2003, Col Fortenberry served as the Director of Systems Operations and Ground Systems contracts for the National Reconnaissance Office, Washington DC where he directed the support to three ground based SIGINT collection stations as well as the integrated development of multi-billion dollar SIGINT collection systems. In addition, he completed tours in the C-17 System Program Office, Air Force Research Laboratory, and as Executive Officer. Col Fortenberry began his career as a Missile Launch Officer assigned to the 351st Strategic Missile Wing, Whiteman AFB, MO. While assigned to the 351st, he served as Senior Flt Commander for the 508th Missile Squadron and Wing Command Post Senior Commander responsible for the alert status and EWO readiness of 50 Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles. Col Fortenberry deployed to Baghdad, Iraq from Feb 04-May 04 as Principal Contracting Officer, Coalition Provisional Authority, and returned to Baghdad from September 2006 to February 2007 as Principal Contracting Officer, Multi-National Force Iraq. A native of Tyler, Texas, Lt Col Fortenberry graduated from The Citadel with a BA in Political Science/International Relations in 1990.

EDUCATION:

1990 - BA Political Science/International Relations, The Citadel, Charleston, SC
1990 - Undergraduate Missile Training, Vandenberg AFB, CA
1993 - MA Human Resource Management, Webster University, St Louis, MO
1995 - Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, AL
2002 - Air Command and Staff College

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Sep 90 – Jan 91, Student, Undergraduate Missile Training, Vandenberg AFB, CA
2. Jan 91 – Jul 95, Missile Combat Crew Commander/Sr Flight Commander, 508th Missile Squadron, Whiteman AFB, MO
3. Jul 95 – Aug 96, AFIT Student, Education with Industry, Tracor Aerospace, Austin, TX
4. Sep 96 – Oct 98, Chief, Non-Metals Contracting, Air Force Research Lab, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH
5. Oct 98 - Sept 99, Chief, Performance Enhancement/Performance Improvement, C-17 SPO, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH
6. Sep 99 – Jun 00, Executive Officer, Contracting Directorate, Aeronautical Systems Center, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH
7. Jun 00 – Jun 03, Chief, Systems Operation Office Contracts, National Reconnaissance Office, Washington, DC
8. Jun 03 – Feb 05, Chief, Military Resources, Contracting Directorate, HQ Air Force Materiel Command, WPAFB, OH 9
9. Mar 05- Apr 08, Commander, 509th Contracting Squadron, Whiteman AFB, MO
10. Jun 08 – Jun 11, Commander, Detachment 415, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, Minneapolis, MN

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS: *Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Joint Meritorious Unit Award w/ one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Combat Readiness Medal, Iraq Campaign medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal*

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant	12 May 1990
First Lieutenant	1 Jul 1992
Captain	1 Jul 1994
Major	1 September 2001
Lieutenant Colonel	1 August 2006