

Biography
Commandant

Jay Smith
Colonel (OF-5), United States Army

As the Commandant of the NATO School Oberammergau, Colonel Jay Smith commands a faculty and staff representing 22 different NATO and Partnership for Peace nations that are responsible for the education and development of more than 10,000 students per year through more than 110 different formal education courses.

Colonel Jay Smith graduated of the United States Air Force Academy, he cross-commissioned into the United States Army as an infantry officer. He served as a platoon leader and company executive officer in 3rd Brigade, 3rd infantry Division (Mechanized) with deployments to Kuwait and Qatar. Later he served as the Support Platoon Leader and on the staff of 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. After transferring to Vicenza, Italy, he served on the staff of 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Airborne) of the 173rd Airborne Brigade. He commanded Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Airborne) in Iraq and later 74th Long Range Surveillance Detachment of the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Afghanistan. He returned to the Army Staff as Director of the U.S.Army Foreign Liaison Office.

As an Olmsted Scholar, Colonel Jay Smith received his master's degree in Geo-strategy, Defense and Security Policy and Comparative Military History at the University of Aix-Marseille III in France. Upon graduation, Colonel Smith served on the Army Staff within the Strategic Plans and Policy's War Plans Division. He was the Assistant and then the Army Attaché in Warsaw, Poland, and the Chief of Defense Cooperation in Sofia, Bulgaria. He is a graduate of the Grand Strategy Program at the Air War College. Colonel Jay Smith served the Chief of Joint Doctrine on Joint Staff Joint Force Development Directorate (J-7).

He is a senior jumpmaster with combat jump star. He has earned a Ranger Tab and the Combat Infantryman Badge. He holds various awards including two Bronze Stars, the Bulgarian Commendation Medal, and the Polish Gold Star.

He and his wife, Jenn, have five children, the eldest of whom is in Army ROTC at Auburn University.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

■ Bulgarian Commendation Medal

■ Polish Gold Star

