



LIEUTENANT COLONEL STEPHEN L. “DISCO” PARSONS

Lt Col Stephen L. Parsons is the Commander of the 496th Air Base Squadron and U.S. Forces Commander, Morón Air Base, Spain. He serves in numerous roles, from U.S. Installation Commander to senior airfield authority, base operations support-integrator, and military advisor to the U.S.-Spain Permanent Committee. As commander of the host and sole U.S. squadron on Morón Air Base, he is responsible for a total force of approximately 600 military, dependent, civilian, and contract personnel representing over 42 career fields who operate, maintain, and enable the Morón power-projection platform to support US and Allied air operations and combat support capabilities. As the senior U.S. representative and honored guest of Spain, Lt Col Parsons partners with his hosts at the Spanish Air and Space Force’s 11th Wing, as well as the Second Air Deployment Support Squadron, the Space Surveillance Operations Center, and the Second Emergency Intervention Battalion, while coordinating closely with local Spanish agencies and government officials, and U.S. Embassy Madrid.



Lt Col Parsons was commissioned in 2008 after graduating from the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He completed undergraduate pilot training in 2010 and served as an instructor and evaluator pilot in the C-130J Hercules at Little Rock AFB, Dyess AFB, and Ramstein AB.

Lt Col Parsons is a December 2016 graduate of the USAF Weapons School. He has served as chief of weapons and tactics at the squadron and base level, chief of standardization and evaluation, assistant director of operations, director of operations, wing executive officer, wing chief of safety, and Air Force liaison to US Army’s commanding general of Southern European Task Force, Africa.

Lt Col Parsons has participated in both combat and peacetime joint operations including Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Freedom’s Sentinel, and Resolute Support where he has logged over 550 hours of combat flight time. Most recently, Lt Col Parsons was deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan as Chief of Tactics for the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron. Lt Col Parsons is a senior pilot with more than 2,300 hours in the C-130J. Prior to his current position, he was the Director of Operations for the 86th Operations Support Squadron, 86th Airlift Wing, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

EDUCATION

2008 Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Mass.

2009 Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

2014 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2016 C-130 Weapons Instructor Course, USAF Weapons School, Nellis AFB, Nev.

2016 Master of Business Administration, American Military University, W.Va.

2020 Master of Military Operational Art and Science, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2020 Leader Development Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2022 Basic Airborne Course, Ft. Moore, Ga.

2023 Language Enabled Airman Program Scholar, Italian

2025 Squadron Leadership Course, Ramstein Air Base, Germany





ASSIGNMENTS

1. November 2008–March 2010, Student Pilot, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas
2. March 2010–October 2010, Student Pilot, Joint Advanced Multi-Engine Flight Training, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas
3. October 2010–June 2011, Pilot, C-130J Pilot Initial Qualification, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
4. June 2011–June 2015, C-130J Instructor Pilot, Assistant Chief of Tactics, and Chief of Scheduling, 41st Airlift Squadron, Little Rock AFB, Ark. (January 2012–May 2012, C-130J First Pilot, 772th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, Kandahar Air Base, Afghanistan) (April 2013–November 2013, C-130 Planner, 609th Air Operations Center, Al Udeid AB, Qatar) (January 2015–May 2015, C-130J Aircraft Commander, 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, Bagram AB, Afghanistan)
5. June 2015–June 2017, Chief of Weapons and Tactics, 19th Operations Support Squadron, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
6. June 2017–May 2019, C-130J Evaluator Pilot, Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, and Assistant Director of Operations, 40th Airlift Squadron, Dyess AFB, Texas (September 2018–January 2019, Chief of Weapons and Tactics, 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, Bagram AB, Afghanistan)
7. May 2019–July 2019, C-130J Evaluator Pilot and Executive Office, 317th Airlift Wing, Dyess AFB, Texas
8. July 2019–June 2020, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
9. June 2020–December 2023, Air Mobility Liaison Officer to US Army, Africa, Caserma Del Din, Vicenza, Italy
10. December 2023–August 2024, Chief of Safety, 86th Airlift Wing, Ramstein Air Base, Germany
11. August 2024–April 2025, Director of Operations, 86th Operations Support Squadron, Ramstein Air Base, Germany

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: senior pilot

Flight hours: more than 2,500, including 550 combat hours

Aircraft flown: T-6A, T-44, C-130J

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with 5 oak leaf clusters with C device

Air Force Commendation Medal with 1 oak leaf cluster with C device

Meritorious Unit Award with 2 oak leaf clusters

Air and Space Outstanding Unit Award

Air and Space Organizational Excellence Award

Combat Readiness Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters

National Defense Service Medal

Afghanistan Campaign Medal with 2 stars

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal

NATO Medal with 1 star

Dutch Cross for the Four Day Marches

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 17, 2008

First Lieutenant May 17, 2010

Captain May 14, 2012

Major June 1, 2018

Lieutenant Colonel November 1, 2022

(Current as of June 2025)

