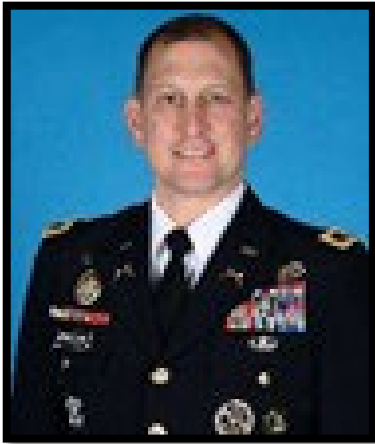




Colonel Karst K. Brandsma, Director, Commander's Initiatives Group, USAREUR-AF



Colonel Karst Brandsma was commissioned into the Military Police Corps on 8 May 1998 and has served in leadership positions at all echelons of the Military Police Corps, the Department of the Army, and the Joint Staff. Originally from Gig Harbor, WA, he graduated as an ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate from Gonzaga University in 1998.

He holds a Master's Degree in Business and Organizational Security Management from Webster University, a Master's Degree in Policy Management from Georgetown University, and a Master of Military Arts and Science from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. In 2017, he was accepted into the Advanced Strategic Planning and Policy Program (ASP3) to pursue a PhD in International Relations at Tufts University, where he has achieved PhD Candidacy.

Col. Brandsma's command assignments include Commander of the USAREUR-AF Headquarters Brigade (Provisional) from 2022 to 2024, and Commander of the 720th Military Police Battalion and Installation Provost Marshal, Fort Hood, TX, from 2015 to 2017. During that period, he also served as a Task Force Commander within Joint Task Force-Civil Support as part of the Defense CBRN Response Force for NORTHCOM.

Additional key assignments include Congressional Affairs, Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization; Strategic Initiatives Planner and AXO, Army G-3/5/7; Executive Officer, 42d MP Brigade, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA; Deputy Brigade Commander, 89th MP Brigade, Fort Hood, TX; G-37 (Training and Exercises) Director, U.S. Army Europe and Africa; and Deputy Chief of Staff (Military) for USAREUR-AF.

He has deployed multiple times in support of peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Kosovo, combat operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF 1 and OIF 05-07), and theater detention operations as Executive Officer, Task Force Protector, Bagram, Afghanistan. His professional military education includes the Military Police Officer Basic Course (Distinguished Honor Graduate), Military Police Captain's Career Course (Commandant's List), Command and General Staff College, the School for Advanced Military Studies, and ASP3.

Col. Brandsma's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Combat Action Badge, Parachutist Badge, the Joint Staff and Army Staff Badges, the Germany Armed Forces Efficiency Badge in Gold, and the Military Police Order of the Marechaussee, among other service and achievement decorations.