

Colonel Johannes (Jon) E. Castro

COL Johannes (Jon) E. Castro was born in California and raised in Finland and Salt Lake City, Utah. He served as a Signals Intelligence Cryptanalyst (MOS 98K) before commissioning as an Air Defense Artillery Officer through the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Fort Benning, Georgia. He is a graduate of the University of Utah and Louisiana State University and holds a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the U.S. Army War College.

His prior command assignments include Commander, A Battery, 6th Battalion, 52d Air Defense Regiment and Commander, D Battery, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Regiment - both in Ansbach, Germany; Deputy Commander, 35th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade, Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea; and Commander, Task Force Talon, 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC), Andersen AFB, Guam. On 21 June 2023, he will assume command of the 4th Battlefield Coordination Detachment (BCD), Shaw AFB, South Carolina.

Previous non-command assignments include Fire Control Platoon Leader and Battery Executive Officer in the 108th ADA Brigade, Fort Bliss, Texas; Air Defense Artillery Fire Control Officer (ADAFCO), Task Force 1-7 ADA – deployed to Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait for OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH; Air Defense Artillery Officer, 11th Attack Helicopter Regiment, Illesheim, Germany – deployed to Balad Southeast Airfield, Iraq to support OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF); Plans and Senior Air Defense Observer, Coach/Trainer (OC/T) at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), Fort Polk, Louisiana; Afghan National Security Force Coordination Officer, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team “Mountain Warrior,” 4th Infantry Division (4ID) – deployed to Jalalabad, Afghanistan for OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF); Battalion Operations Officer, 4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4ID; Chief of Strategy and Policy with the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense (USSTRATCOM), Schriever SFB, Colorado; G-3 Forward, 10th AAMDC; Liaison Officer to NATO Air Command and the United States Air Forces in Europe and Africa, Ramstein Air Base, Germany; and most recently as the Chief of Staff, Missile Defense Agency, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Personal awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (six awards), Army Commendation Medal (two awards), Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (eight awards), Air Force Achievement Medal, OEF and OIF Campaign Medals, Armed Forces Expeditionary and Service Medals, Parachutist Badge, Army Basic Space Badge, and the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (Gold).