

Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey Meinders

Jeffrey Meinders assumed his duties as the Army ROTC Professor of Military Science at the University of New Mexico in June of 2021. He is a 2004 graduate of the ROTC program at Missouri Western State University. LTC Meinders is an attack aviation officer with 14 years flying Apache and Lakota helicopters in various assignments.

Previously, he served as a Mission Commander for the Treaty of Open Skies at Fort Belvoir, where he crewed the OC-135B aircraft. His operational assignments include brigade operations officer, squadron executive officer, and brigade aviation officer in the 4th Infantry Division; observer, controller, trainer at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany; Commander of Alpha Company, 1-14th Aviation Regiment at Fort Rucker, Alabama; and platoon leader and battalion intelligence officer for 1-3 Attack, 3rd Infantry Division in Savannah, Georgia. He has combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, and an operational deployment to Atlantic Resolve in Europe.

Jeff is a graduate of the Naval War College with a Master of Arts in National Defense and Strategic Studies, with a Bachelor's degree in Business at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, MO.

His military education includes the Naval War College, the Aviation Captain Career Course, Aviation Officer Basic Course, and both the AH-64D and UH-72A aviator course.

Jeff's awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Air Medal (numeral 5), the Army Commendation Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Achievement Medal (5 Oak Leaf Clusters), Senior Aviation Badge, the Basic Parachutist Badge, and the Combat Action Badge.

He is married to the former Courtney Ricci of Parker, Colorado, and have one daughter, Dakota.