

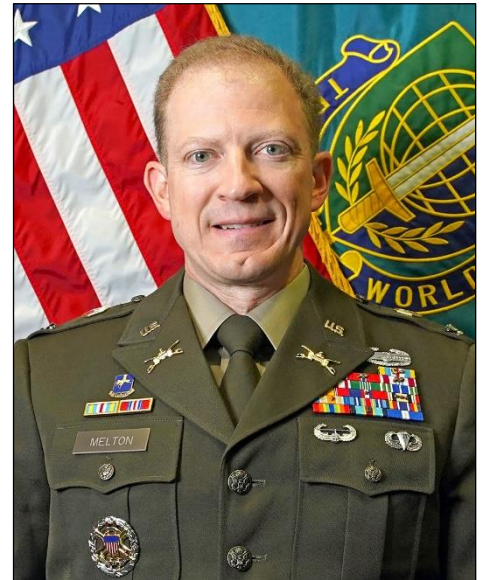
COLONEL THOMAS MELTON

Commander

U.S. Army Security Assistance Training Management Organization

Colonel Thomas Melton is a European Foreign Area Officer (FAO) with 25 years of commissioned service in the U.S. Army and the Joint Force. He joins U.S. Army Security Assistance Training Management Organization from U.S. European Command Headquarters, where he served as the Command's Deputy Chief of Staff as well as the Director of Staff and Chief of the Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia Division within the Directorate for Plans, Policy and Strategy (ECJ5).

His previous FAO assignments include Acting Defense Attaché and Chief of Attaché Operations to the Republic of Iraq; Political-Military Affairs Officer within the Cooperative Security Directorate, NATO International Military Staff; Western Balkans Political-Military Affairs Officer and Executive Officer within the Joint Staff J5; Army Attaché to the Republic of Kosovo; and Foreign Area Officer Trainee at the U.S. Embassy to the Republic of Serbia. He maintains language proficiency in Serbo-Croatian and Albanian.



Prior to becoming a FAO, Colonel Melton was an Armor and Cavalry officer assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division, III Armored Corps Headquarters, and 101st Airborne Division. His company grade assignments include tank platoon leader, support platoon leader, aide-de-camp, assistant brigade operations officer, and troop commander of a reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition troop. Between 2004 and 2008, Colonel Melton conducted three combat deployments to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, to include a 14-month deployment to Baghdad as the troop commander of A/1-75 CAV, 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division in the 2007-2008 Iraq Surge.

He holds a Master of Arts in International Policy and Practice from The George Washington University (2012), a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College (2021), and a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the United States Military Academy (2000). His military education includes the Armor Officer Basic Course, the Armor Captains Career Course, and the Intermediate Level Education Common Core Course. Colonel Melton's War College thesis, "Improving the Effectiveness of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence," won the Foreign Area Officer Association writing award and was published by the FAOA Journal.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal (two awards), the Bronze Star Medal (three awards), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), the Kosovo Campaign Medal, the Operation Iraqi Freedom Campaign Medal, the Operation Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal, the Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, and the Combat Action Badge.

Colonel Melton is married and has three children.