U.S. ARMY

Colonel Brian A. Sansom
U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground, Utah



COL Sansom assumed command of Dugway Proving Ground on 16 July 2025. In this capacity, he leads the installation and provides executive oversight for the broader testing and evaluation enterprise. By managing base operations, force protection, and resource prioritization, he ensures the West Desert Test Center has the infrastructure and support required to execute its core mission of chemical and biological defense testing. Under his leadership, Dugway also supports an expanding portfolio of internal research and development (IRAD) and advanced technology evaluation, including the testing of cruise missiles, unmanned aircraft systems (UAS/cUAS), directed energy systems, and launched effects. Furthermore, leveraging the installation's remote geography and secure footprint, he facilitates highly sensitive training for Joint, Interagency, and Multinational partners. By providing a highly secure and controlled environment and the ability to replicate complex operational conditions, he supports the specialized training requirements of elite military, intelligence, and federal law enforcement organizations, alongside private industry.

Colonel Sansom's career includes operational deployments and strategic planning assignments across the Middle East, Europe, and Asia. He gained foundational combat experience deployed to Baqubah, Iraq, with the 1st Infantry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and subsequently served as an Observer Controller/Trainer at the Joint Multinational Training Center in Hohenfels, Germany. Advancing to theater-level staff roles, he served as an Operations Officer on the U.S. Army Europe Crisis Action Team where he supported the theater response to the 2008 Georgia-Russia conflict, planning for SETAF to transition to the Army Service Component Command (ASCC) for AFRICOM, and the emplacement of early-warning infrastructure in Israel. At U.S. Army Central, he served as Deputy of the Command Initiatives Group and subsequently as Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General. Later, as an operational planner for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Kabul, Afghanistan, he facilitated multinational force generation efforts for 28 allied nations, developed U.S. manning recommendations, and contributed to U.S. Embassy Non-combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) planning

His command and institutional leadership experience spans multiple echelons. Early in his career, he commanded the Headquarters Company of the NATO Support Activity (now USAG Brussels) in Belgium, gaining foundational experience in allied infrastructure support. He later commanded the 23rd CBRNE Battalion in South Korea—the Army's only forward-deployed tactical unit tasked with providing critical chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE/EOD) response capabilities for the Korean peninsula. At the institutional level, his commitment to leader development is highlighted by his service as an Assistant Professor of Military Science at Howard University in Washington, D.C., where he instructed and mentored future officers. He later served as the Chemical Branch Chief at U.S. Army Human Resources Command, managing the career progression, retention, and professional development of the Army's Chemical Corps enlisted and officer populations.

Colonel Sansom is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College, holding a Master of Strategic Studies. He also earned a Master of Military Art and Science from the School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS) and a Master of Science in Environmental Management. As a scholar-practitioner, he has contributed to broader defense discourse with works published by the U.S. Army War College Press and in *Joint Force Quarterly*. His research and writing explore joint operational approaches, the strategic value of sociocultural capabilities, and overcoming organizational barriers to defense modernization.

As of 24 April 2026