

Colonel Andrew Cole, Jr.

Andrew Cole, Jr., entered Active Duty after completing the ROTC Program at Texas Tech University in 1991. His first assignment was in the Republic of Korea, serving with the 4th and 5th Battalions, 501st Aviation Regiment (ATK) as an OH-58 Scout Platoon Leader and Assistant S3. Following his return stateside to Fort Hood, Texas in 1993, COL Cole served with the 2nd Armored Division's Aviation Brigade as a Liaison Officer within the Brigade S3 and as a Battalion Adjutant with 2nd Battalion, 502nd Aviation Regiment. Upon completing the Aviation Officer's Advanced Course at Fort Rucker, AL in 1996, COL Cole was assigned to 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment in the Republic of Panama, where he served as the Battalion S4 Officer, and Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General, United States Army South. Upon completing commands of Headquarters Company and Alpha Company, 1-228th Aviation Regiment in 1999, COL Cole was assigned to Headquarters, United States Army Japan where he served as the Deputy Inspector General.

Following completion of Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS in 2002, COL Cole assumed duties as the Brigade S4 Officer for the 12th Aviation Brigade and the Executive Officer for 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, located at Giebelstadt, Germany. Upon returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom-1, COL Cole was assigned to Aviano Air Force Base, Italy where he assumed command of B Company, 5-158th Aviation Regiment until the unit's deactivation in 2006. COL Cole then served in Joint Assignments with NATO as the J5 Planner for the Balkans and later as Executive Officer and Military Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Allied Joint Forces Command – Naples. His next assignment was to Fort Riley, Kansas where COL Cole assumed Command of the 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion (AHB), 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade on 14 February 2009, and returned to Iraq for OIF 10-11 and Operation New Dawn as the USD-North Aviation Task Force Nightmare Commander. Following Command COL Cole proceeded to the US Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, PA and upon completion was assigned to the Mission Command Training Program (MCTP) at Fort Leavenworth, KS, as the Operations Group Alpha Deputy Chief. Currently, as of 18 July 2013, COL Cole is serving as the Garrison Commander at Fort Riley, KS.

COL Cole is a graduate of the Aviation Officers Basic and Advanced Courses, Air Assault, Airborne and Ranger Courses, the Inspector General's Course, the Command and General Staff College and the US Army War College. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (1 OLC), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal and the Army Commendation Medal.

COL Cole and his wife Charlotte enjoy music, travelling and spending time with family.