



United States Army

Colonel Michael Smith

FA40 Space Operations Officer

Deputy Combined Joint Force Space Component Commander

Colonel Michael "Mike" Smith is the Deputy Commander, Combined Joint Force Space Component, United States Space Command, Vandenberg Space Force Base, California. A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, COL Smith was commissioned as a Signal Officer in 2003 and transitioned to a Space Operations Officer (FA40) in 2018. His most recent assignment was as a student at the U.S. Army War College.



COL Smith's career began with assignments in Germany as a Signal Platoon Leader and Executive Officer with the 32nd Signal Battalion, 22nd Signal Brigade in Darmstadt. After completing the Signal Captain's Career Course, he served as the Battalion S6 Officer-in-Charge for the 2-4 General Support Aviation Battalion at Fort Hood, Texas, followed by command of the Signal Company, 404th Aviation Support Battalion, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade. As a company-grade officer, he deployed twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and once for Operation Enduring Freedom. He later served as an Assistant Professor of Military Science at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

Following Intermediate Level Education at the Command and General Staff College, COL Smith was assigned as the Brigade S6 for the 36th Engineer Brigade, deploying to Monrovia, Liberia in 2014 for Operation United Assistance. In 2016, he became the J6 Executive Officer at United States Forces-Korea. Transitioning to space operations, he served as the C4 Plans Officer in the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (USASMDC) G6, followed by roles as the G37 Certifications and Evaluations Branch Chief and the inaugural Deputy Commandant of the Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence (SMD CoE) in 2020. He also acted as Commandant of the SMD CoE for one year before being assigned as the USASMDC G33 Chief of Operations in 2023.

COL Smith's military education includes the Signal Officer Basic Course, Signal Captain's Career Course, Command and General Staff College, and U.S. Army War College. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. His awards include the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three OLCs, Army Commendation Medal with four OLCs, Army Achievement Medal, and the Master Space Badge.

COL Smith is married to Brooke Smith and has five children: Leah, Jackson, Jason, Jacob, and Jordan.