



COLONEL JAMES S. SPARROW

Colonel James S. Sparrow is the Commander of the Strategic Airlift Capability (SAC) Program's Heavy Airlift Wing (HAW), HDF Pápa Air Base, Hungary. In this role he commands the only multinational airlift unit in existence today executing a shared flight hour program by 12 nations (10 NATO and two Partnership for Peace) operating C-17 aircraft. The HAW supports airlift missions for the 12 SAC nations for national, NATO, EU, humanitarian assistance, airdrop and other national requirements. Members of the SAC Program include Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, and the United States.

Colonel Sparrow received his commission from the United States Air Force Academy in 1993. He has served in a variety of positions at the Squadron, Group, and Wing levels, including Evaluator Pilot and Instructor Pilot in multiple different aircraft.



Following attendance at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, after earning the Joint Planner Designation, he served on the staff of U.S. European Command in a variety of positions within the Directorate for Strategy, Policy, and Assessments including duty as the command lead for the stand-up of the SAC Program program from 2007-2009. Following his first tour in Europe, Col Sparrow served as a C-17 Operations Officer during one of the busiest operations tempos in Mobility Air Forces history including a combat deployment with his squadron. After this he commanded the 37th Flying Training Squadron at Columbus AFB, Mississippi producing over 230 pilots yearly for the U.S. Air Force and partner nations in Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training and the International Aviation Leadership Program flying the T-6 Texan II trainer.

After squadron command, he served as the Chief, Security Assistance Policy, International Training and Education for the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs (SAF/IA). In this capacity he was responsible for developing, coordinating and implementing policy to optimize the U.S. Air Force's security cooperation programs with partner nations to include managing aviation and technical training courses, flying exercises and requirements for international partners.

Prior to his assignment to the HAW, Col Sparrow was the Vice Commander, 3rd Wing, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska providing the commander, U.S. Pacific Command, trained and equipped tactical air dominance forces, command and control platforms, and strategic and tactical airlift resources for contingency operations to include interception of hostile forces within the Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Command Region.

He is a Command Pilot with over 6,500 flying hours in T-37, T-38, C-5, T-1, C-17, T-6, C-12, and E-3 aircraft.