

Ryan Montanez

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Current/Active TS/SCI



Professional Summary

Seasoned executive/SOF leader (Colonel) with 20+ years leading strategic planning, crisis response, and complex air and space operations across multiple Combatant Commands. Proven in senior command and staff roles integrating emerging technologies into joint missions and advising top defense leaders on capability gaps and investment priorities. Expert in policy development, stakeholder engagement, and translating operator problem sets into actionable requirements and solutions.

Strategic Expertise & Leadership Skills

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

High-Stakes Decision Making Strategic Planning and Execution
Risk Management and Mitigation
Stakeholder Relationship Management

ORGANIZATIONAL STRATEGY

Policy Formulation and Implementation
Budget Strategy and Financial Planning
Legislative and Regulatory Compliance
Cross-Functional Team Leadership

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Emergency Response Planning
Contingency Operations
International Partnerships
Coalition Building

COMMUNICATION AND INFLUENCE

Strategic Communications
High-Impact Messaging
Public Relations and Media Management

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Project Management and Mission Execution
Intelligence Analysis-Data-Driven Decision Making
Performance Optimization and Team Development

Professional Experience

📅 2025 - Current **Director-Joint Integrated Space Teams Headquarters U.S. Space Command, Colorado**

- Lead, synchronize, budget and manage 150 joint space professionals across headquarters and ten Colonel-led, geographically dispersed JISTs embedded within every Combatant Command.
- Ensure U.S. space capabilities, requirements, and operations are fully integrated and aligned with national defense policy and strategic interests.
- Serve as a qualified Joint Operations Center Battle Watch Commander, directing real-time space operations and global situational awareness.
- Cultivate a high-performance culture through mentorship, professional development, and results-driven leadership.

📅 2022-2025 **Chief Executive Officer, (Commander) INDOPACOM-aligned Air Operations Center, U.S. Air Force, California, Hawaii**

- Led- 145-person unit providing operational support, planning, and execution for no-fail strategic air operations.
- Directed talent acquisition, professional development, and readiness across 40+ specialized career fields to sustain global combat capability.
- Oversaw regional-level strategic planning and operational execution supporting theater-wide air operations and joint initiatives.
- Partnered with senior defense leaders and interagency officials to align strategic objectives, enhance decision-making, and improve mission performance.
- Served as Air Operations Center (AOC) Director, directing real-time command and control of worldwide air, space, and cyber operations.

📅 2020-2022 **Senior Advisor to the Executive 7th Air Force, South Korea**

- Served as principal advisor on workforce integration and Total Force Management initiatives supporting more than 8,000 active-duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilian members.
- Directed training, deployment, and human capital strategies for primary and auxiliary executive staff, ensuring alignment with command and theater objectives.
- Led cross-functional teams to enhance joint operational coordination across U.S. and Republic of Korea forces.
- Collaborated with senior South Korean defense and industry leaders to strengthen bilateral workforce development and interoperability efforts.

📅 2021 **Director Seoul International Aerospace and Defense Exhibition (ADEX), (AIRBOSS)**

- Lead all U.S. government and industry participation in Northeast Asia's largest aerospace and defense exhibition.
- Oversaw planning, logistics, and execution of live/ static demonstrations showcasing advanced U.S. technologies.
- Engaged senior defense executives, allied representatives, and industry leaders to strengthen international partnerships and promote security cooperation.
- Enhanced visibility of U.S. technological innovation and strategic commitment to regional stability through expert event management and public engagement.
- Key Achievements:
 - Successfully managed a high-profile international event with over 100,000 attendees and 400 participating companies.
 - Developed and sustained strategic partnerships with key international stakeholders, advancing defense initiatives.
 - Designed and executed complex logistics plans supporting large-scale technological demonstrations with 100% safety compliance.

Professional Experience

📅 2018-2020 **Director, Research-Development-Test & Evaluation - Joint Personnel Recover Agency, Assessments Joint Staff J7, Washington D.C.**

- Oversaw research, development, testing, and evaluation of capabilities supporting joint and interagency personnel recovery operations.
- Led the division responsible for advanced recovery technologies, operational assessments, and critical asset recovery programs.
- Engaged senior DoD and interagency leaders on strategic resource management, capability integration, and national-level recovery policy.
- Developed and executed long-term strategic plans aligned with Joint Staff and national security priorities.
- Key Achievements:
 - Led a team of 30+ specialists delivering innovative solutions to complex operational recovery challenges.
 - Streamlined R&D and assessment processes, reducing project timelines by 20% while maintaining high technical rigor.
 - Managed a \$15M annual budget, achieving all objectives within fiscal constraints and enhancing mission readiness.
 - Authored policy recommendations adopted by senior defense leadership, shaping enterprise-wide personnel recovery doctrine.

📅 2015-2017 **Chief Executive Officer, (Commander) Specialized Response Unit, Florida**

- Led a 121-member elite combat rescue unit executing global, full-spectrum emergency response, recovery, and personnel rescue operations.
- Directed strategic planning, risk management, and resource allocation to safeguard national assets and maintain continuous operational readiness.
- Enhanced unit performance through targeted mentorship, leadership development, and program reform initiatives.
- Key Achievements:
 - Achieved a 100% mission success rate in high-risk, time-sensitive rescue operations worldwide.
 - Implemented cutting-edge training programs, increasing team readiness and capability by 30%.
 - Optimized resource utilization, reducing operational costs by 15% while improving mission efficiency.
 - Developed and executed a comprehensive risk management framework, achieving zero safety incidents across all missions.
 - Fostered a culture of innovation and continuous improvement, increasing personnel retention by 25%

Education

📅 2018

Master of Strategic Studies
U.S. Army War College

📅 2013

Master of Military Operational Art & Science,
Air University

📅 2001

Bachelor of Science, Basic Science
(Engineering/Biology focus)
United States Air Force Academy

Specialized Certifications and Qualifications

- ***Advanced Aerial Operations Certifications**
- ***Pro-level SCUBA & Underwater Operations**
- ***Flight Operations Management Certifications**
- ***Crisis Response**
- ***High-Risk Environment Management**
- ***Extreme Conditions Survival & Leadership Training**
- ***Advanced First Aid and Emergency Medical Response Certifications**
- ***Multi-Modal Transportation & Logistics Expertise**

Key Achievements

- Selected for, completed training of, and operated as two different elite special operations specialties known as Pararescue (PJ) & Combat Control (CCT)
- 6 Combat deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/African Command—Numerous other non-combat deployments
- Directed U.S. humanitarian assistance efforts in Pakistan during a complex political climate (2012)
- Established rapid response team for earthquake relief efforts in Pakistan (2005)
- Member of prestigious leadership and public speaking program at a top-tier academic institution
- Led multiple international capacity-building initiatives, fostering cross-cultural collaboration
- Represented the U.S. in international athletic competitions (2021/2023), promoting global partnerships/ Member of the world class athlete Air Force Wrestling team
- Commanded specialized units at the at every level from Capt to Col in garrison and combat
- Completed the Leadville 100, a grueling 100-mile high-altitude endurance race in Colorado, showcasing extreme physical and mental resilience
- Served as Personnel Recovery Functional Manager for a major organizational headquarters
- Recognized as Field Grade Officer of the Year for outstanding leadership and performance
- Led search and rescue operations for numerous natural disasters and emergency situations