



U.S. Strategic Command Biography



Colonel Melvin Douglas Sachs
Commander, Joint Warfare Analysis Center

Colonel Sachs entered the Air Force in 1988 after receiving his commission as a distinguished graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the Missouri University of Science and Technology. He was initially assigned as an acquisitions program manager working on a navigation system pod for F-15Es and F-16s. He then completed undergraduate navigator training as a distinguished graduate and winner of the Colonel Mike Gilroy Award as the top electronic warfare officer in his class. Over the next 5 years, he flew the RC-135S Cobra Ball from Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., and he held numerous positions including flight commander and 55th Operations Group's executive officer.

Col. Sachs completed a joint service tour with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency in the On-site Inspection Directorate, flying the OC-135B and other countries' aircraft in support of the Open Skies Treaty. There he ran the Open Skies Division's Technical Operations Branch, closely coordinating with members from NATO and former Soviet Union countries concerning methodologies to be employed in certifying each nation's aircraft. After leading the United States' treaty certification effort in May 2002, he returned to Offutt Air Force Base, learned to fly the RC-135 Rivet Joint, and served as the 343rd Reconnaissance Squadron's Chief of Training. In 2004, he transferred to the 82nd Reconnaissance Squadron, Okinawa, Japan, as the operations officer, assuming command in June 2006. He has also commanded the 763rd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron.

He next served as the United States' first Senior Defense Official and Defense Attaché to Baku, Azerbaijan, from 2008 to 2011. He continued his political-military career by serving at headquarters, Defense Intelligence Agency, in the Office of Attaché Operations, where he managed the operations of 20 Defense Attaché Offices in East Europe and Eurasia. In his last posting, he served as the United States Senior Defense Official and Defense Attaché to Australia from 2014.

Col. Sachs holds Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in engineering management from Missouri University of Science and Technology, where he was inducted into the Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society, and he holds a master's degree in military operational art and science

from Air Command and Staff College. His professional military education includes being a distinguished graduate from Squadron Officer School, and he has graduated from Air Command and Staff College, Armed Forces Staff College, and Air War College.

(Current as of June 2017)