

**1ST SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Honorary Commanders Program

**Current and Past Honorary Commanders
(Total as of 2025-2026: 185)**

2025-2026: (11)

Mel Ponder	1 SOW	President, Northwest Florida State College
Carolyn Ketchel	1 SOW	Okaloosa County Commissioner, District 2
Kasie Windfelder	1 SOW	Principal, Navarre High School
K.C. Donohey	1 SOW	CEO, HCA Florida, Fort Walton – Destin Hospital
Bron Ringstad	1 SOW	VP, Branch Operations, Eglin Federal Credit Union
Randy Tiff	1 SOW	Chief Deputy, Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office
Ron Kimble	1 SOW	Criminal Investigations Division Captain, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office
Shane Chadwick	505 CCW	Director of Business Intelligence, Florida's Great Northwest
Daniel Milana	505 TTG	Director of Development, Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation (plus several additional positions)
Tom Gordon	492 SOW	President, Gordon Air Conditioning; and President, Gordon Martial Arts
Anthony Boyer	492 SOW	Admissions Counselor, Troy University

2024-2025: Gapped a year due to Organizational Restructure

2023-2024: (13)

Jennifer Conoley	1 SOW	President and CEO, Florida's Great Northwest
Dawn Massey	1 SOW/CCC	Principal, Florosa Elementary
April Sutton	1 SOMDG	Council Member, City of Mary Esther
Colten Wright	1 SOMSG	Santa Rosa County Commissioner District 5; Owner, The Tool Shack
Alan Baggett	1 SOG	Executive Vice President, Building Industry Association of Okaloosa-Walton Counties, Inc. <i>(attended 0 tours)</i>
Amanda Negron	1 SOMXG	CEO, HSU Educational Foundation
Bobby Wagner	505 CCW	Mayor of Destin
Chanda Ryan	505 TTG	President/CEO, Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Steve Rhodes	492 SOW	Senior Corporate Real Estate Representative, Florida Power and Light
Brittney Patterson	492 SOW/CCC	Sales Manager, The Island Resort
Randy Wise	492 SOG/CC	President/Owner, Randy Wise Homes
Lenny Holloway	492 SOTRG/CC	Youth Services Divisional Commander (Captain), Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office <i>(attended 1/2 of 1 tour)</i>
Dr. David Keuss	24 SOW	Senior Pastor, Wright Baptist Church

2022-2023: (13)

Neko Stubblefield	1 SOW	Vice President/Membership and Community Development, Eglin Federal Credit Union
Brian Squire	1 SOW/CCC	Executive Vice President, Hays Companies
Ann Hill	1 SOMDG	Executive Director, Emerald Coast Healthcare Coalition
Aaron Bacchi	1 SOMSG	Director of Administration, Florida One DMAT, Inc.
Megan Rutherford	1 SOG	City of Mary Esther, City Council
John Spolski	1 SOMXG	Financial Planner, Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management Company
Sam Parker	505 CCW	Principal, Fort Walton Beach High School
Kevin Lovelace	505 TTG	Santa Rosa County Commissioner, District 1
Janey Rynearson	492 SOW	Director, Business Success, One Okaloosa Economic Development Council
David Butler	492 SOW/CCC	First Lady, City of Fort Walton Beach
Cristie Kedroski	492 SOTRG	Clergy/Pastor, Faith Assembly Christian Church of Miramar Beach, FL
Michael Mead	492 SOG	Senior Vice President, Northwest Florida State College
Narissa Jenkins	24 SOW	Attorney, The Mead Law & Title
		Chief Executive Officer, Founder, Healing Hoof Steps

2019-2022 (*COVID): (13)

Kellie Jo Kilberg	1 SOW	President and CEO, Kilberg & Associates; Director of Communications, Marketing & Strategic Initiatives, Randy Wise Homes
Melanie Moore	1 SOW/CCC	Education Director/Community Outreach, Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation
Trisha Dall	1 SOMDG	Environmental Health Section Chief, Okaloosa County Health Department
Chief Robert Bage	1 SOMSG	Fort Walton Beach Police Chief
Angela Campbell	1 SOG	Executive Director, Navarre Area Board of Realtors
Rev. Clelia Garrity	1 SOMXG	LCSW, Associate for Community Engagement and Pastoral Care, St. Simon's on the Sound Episcopal Church
Paul Lux	505 CCW	Okaloosa County Supervisor of Election
Cindy Frakes	505 TTG	Realtor/First Vice President, ERA American Real Estate
Capt Charlie Nix	492 SOW	Captain/East District Commander, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office
Magda Cooper	492 SOW/CCC	Co-Founder/COO for BOTE, LLC
Sandy Lutyens	492 SOTRG	Chief Financial Officer, Air Force Enlisted Village
Cathy Alley	492 SOG	Realtor, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services; Niceville City Council
Sarah Peavy	24 SOW	Marketing Director, Emerald Coast Harley Davidson

2018-2019: (11)

Jeremy Holcomb	1 SOW	Vice President of Operations, Legendary Marina
Renea Black	1 SOMSG	Exec Dir, Early Learning Coalition of the Emerald Coast, Inc.
Christopher Saul	1 SOMXG	Public Info Officer, Okaloosa County Board of Commissioners

Denise Kendust	1 SOMDG	Dir of Marketing/Public Relations, FWB Medical Center
I.D. Brewton	1 SOW/CCC	Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Deputy Sergeant Patrol / SWAT
Rev. Scott Veroneau	505 CCW	Lead Pastor, Community Life United Methodist Ch, Gulf Breeze
Matthew Pace	505 TRG	Owner, Pace PC Solutions LLC
Jessica Proffitt Bracken	24 SOW	President, Proffitt PR
Graham Fountain	492 SOW/CC	Okaloosa County Commissioner, District 1, Chairman of the Brd
Captain Mark Raiche	492 SOW/CCC	Commander, Central District, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office
Rev. Dr. Alan McBride	1 SOG	Senior Minister, Navarre United Methodist Church

2017-2018: (10)

Capt Shannon Tait	1 SOMSG	Central District Patrol Commander, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office
Jason Autrey	1 SOMXG	Public Works Director, Okaloosa County
Katie McDeavitt	1 SOMDG	Public Health Preparedness Section Chief, Okaloosa County Health Department
Diane Winnemuller	1 SOG	Publisher, NWF Daily News, Destin Log, Santa Rosa Gazette, Crestview News Bulletin and Walton Sun, as well as five news and two destination websites
Sandra Gainey	1 SOW/CCC	History/Social Studies/Civics Teacher, Pryor Middle School
Mia Hughes	505 CCW	Administrative Director, Fisher House of the Emerald Coast
Teresa Halverson	505 TRG	Director of Marketing/Admissions, Manor at Bluewater Bay
Lisa Captain	24 SOW	Director of Promotions and Marketing, Culumus Media
Lori Bentley	492 SOW/CC	Director of Sales and Marketing, Four Points by Sheraton
<i>Jason Lamp</i>	492 SOW/CCC	<i>General Sales Manager, Community Broadcasters</i>

2016-2017: (11)

Kay Godwin	1 SOW	Deputy Okaloosa County Administrator
Tarey Franxman	1 SOMSG	Human Resources Director, City of Fort Walton Beach
Dr. Eric Sandwith	1 SOMDG	Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery, FWB Medical Center
Marian McBryde	1 SOG	Director of Public Relations, Lee Automotive Group
Tracy Wood	1 SOMXG	Property Manager, ERA American Real Estate
Jan Pooley	1 SOW/CCC	Community Volunteer; Tastefully Simple Independent Consultant
Pam Ridlehoover	505 TRG	Fort Walton Beach Area Campus Director, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Daniel "Gus" Gusoff	24 SOW	Owner/General Manager, Emerald Coast Harley-Davidson
Pam Weeks	AFSOAWC/CCC	Realtor, Keller Williams Emerald Coast
Pamela Martin	505 CCW	Senior Marketing Representative, Gulf Power Company
John McGee	AFSOAWC	Chairman/CEO, First City Bank

2015-2016: (11)

John Hofstad	1 SOW	Okaloosa County Administrator
Kim Barnes	1 SOMSG	City Clerk, City of Fort Walton Beach
Yancey Langston	1 SOMXG	Retired Attorney
Jason Connor	1 SOMDG	ValleyCrest Companies/Landscape Maintenance
Jimmie Beavers	1 SOG	CEO of Beavers, Inc.; Operator of 53 Arby's restaurants
Nathaniel Chatman	1 SOW/CCC	Assistant Principal, Bob Sikes Elementary School

Jenni Brunson	505 CCW	Marketing Manager, Twin Cities Hospital
Bernard Johnson	505 TRG	District General Manager, Gulf Power Company
Jerry Williams	24 SOW	President/CEO, Eglin Federal Credit Union
John Watts	AFSOAWC	VP, Watts Investments, LTD; Watts Brothers Investments, LLC
Bryan Morgan	AFSOAWC/CCC	Firearms Instructor and Owner, K & M Shooting Solutions

2014-2015: (10)

Leo Gadwa	1 SOW	Owner, Beach Castle Cigars
Nathan Sparks	1 SOMSG	Executive Director, Okaloosa County EDC
John Holguin	1 SOMXG	Chief Ops Officer, Okaloosa County Tax Collectors Office
Amanda Colwell	1 SOMDG	Gov't Operations Consultant, Okaloosa County Health Dept
Taylor Hood	1 SOG	General Manager/ Vice President, Preston Hood Chevrolet
Brad Bowman	1 SOW/CCC	Owner, Hickory River Smokehouse
Matt McGee	505 CCW	Vice Pres, First City Bank; Broker, Livin Right Real Estate
Eric Aden	505 TRG	Criminal Investigations Div, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office
Bob Seton	24 SOW	Owner/CEO, Orthopedic & Sports Physical Therapy Center
Larry Keefe	AFSOAWC	Attorney/Partner, Keefe, Anchors & Gordon, P.A.

2013-2014: (10)

Ernie Padgett	1 SOW	County Administrator, Okaloosa County (<i>retired</i>)
John Mead	1 SOMSG	Fort Walton Beach City Council; Attorney, Mead Law Firm
<i>Carol Smith</i>	<i>1 SOMXG</i>	<i>Postmaster, Mary Esther Post Office—MOVED to Dallas</i>
Gene Barker	1 SOMDG	Certified Public Accountant, Warren Averett, LLC, CPAs and Advisors
Cindy Gates	1 SOG	Principal, Choctawhatchee High School
Brian Ekedahl	1 SOW/CCC	Executive Director, Emerald Coast Waterfront Rescue Mission
Barbara Britt	505 CCW	Certified Life & Business Coach John Maxwell Team Speaker & Trainer
Will Goulet	505 TRG	Owner, Navarre Auto Repair
Ron Raybourne	24 SOW	Vice President/General Manager, Apex Broadcasting/Radio Stations
Hayward Dykes, Jr.	24 SOW/CCC	Attorney/Partner, Conerly, Bowman & Dykes, LLP

2012-2013: (8)

Debbie Bodenstine	1 SOW	Former Vice Pres Business Dev'p & Public Relations, EDC
Ralph Yoder	1 SOMSG	Calhoun County School Superintendent
Bob Cole	1 SOMXG	SRC Commissioner; Owner/Operator, Bob Cole's Automotive
Julie Cotton	1 SOMDG	Director, Costa Leadership Institute at NWFSC
Peggy Brockman	1 SOG	President, Brockman Enterprises, Inc
Michael Beedie	1 SOW/CCC	City Manager, City of Fort Walton Beach
Lt Michael Card	505 CCW	Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office
Robert Williamson	505 TRG	Santa Rosa County Commissioner; Owner/CEO, Trees Plus

2011-2012: (10)

Jim Curry	1 SOW	Okaloosa County Administrator (<i>retired</i>)
Ken LaPee	1 SOMSG	Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office
<i>Dominic Damiano</i>	<i>1 SOMXG</i>	<i>Owner, Clemenza's Restaurant (deceased, March 2023)</i>
Amy Herf	1 SOMDG	People's Home Health
Joie DeStefano	1 SOG	Principal, Holley-Navarre Middle School
Keith Wood	1 SOW/CCC	ERA American Realty
Amy Perry	AFSOTC	Pleat & Perry Attorneys at Law
<i>Marci Paulk</i>	<i>720 STG</i>	<i>FWB Medical Center Radiology</i>
Trey Goodwin	505 CCW	FWB City Council/Lawyer, Matthews, Jones & Hawkins, LLP
Dr. David Herf	505 TRG	General Surgeon, Solo Practice

2010-2011: (7)

Freddie Schinz	1 SOW	President, Tiforp Development Corporation
Elaine Anderson	1 SOMSG	Okaloosa County School District
Karen McCarthy	1 SOMXG	Army Aviation Center Federal Credit Union
Gary Kruschke	1 SOMDG	DMAT, FWB Fire Dept
Blake Webster	1 SOG	Owner/Operator, Moe's
Phillip Smith	1 SOW/CCC	Publix Supermarket Director
Katie Sharon	1 SOW/HC	Coastal Bank and Trust

2009-2010: (7)

Peter Bos	1 SOW	Chairman/CEO Legendary, Inc. (HarborWalk Village)
Jack Azzaretto	1 SOMSG	University of West Florida (FWB Campus)
Vickie Warner	1 SOMXG	Former Resort Quest (now retired)
Al Herndon	1 SOMDG	Okaloosa County Dept of Public Safety, EMS Chief
Jackie Blue	1 SOG	Director of Sales, Ramada Plaza Beach Resort
Kevin Loch	1 SOW/CCC	Corporate Benefits of the Emerald Coast Inc.
<i>Rev. Paul Kummer</i>	<i>1 SOW/HC</i>	<i>Grace Lutheran Church-MOVED out of the area</i>

2008-2009: (7)

<i>Joyce Shanahan</i>	<i>1 SOW</i>	<i>FWB City Manager-MOVED out of the area</i>
Nick Chubb	1 SOMSG	Mayor Pro Tem Cinco Bayou, business owner
Lorena Spillar	1 SOMXG	Mortgage business/ Niceville Chamber
<i>David Sanders</i>	<i>1 SOMDG</i>	<i>CEO North Okaloosa Medical Center-MOVED out of the area</i>
Lori Allgood	1 SOG	Former Destin Chamber of Commerce
<i>Heidi Blair</i>	<i>1 SOW/CCC</i>	<i>USO Pensacola Director—MOVED out of the area</i>
<i>Rev. Betsy Powell</i>	<i>1 SOW/HC</i>	<i>St. Augustine Episcopal Church-MOVED out of the area</i>

2007-2008: (7)

Cheryl Seals	1 SOW	Okaloosa County School District
Ted Litschauer	1 SOMSG	FWB Chief of Police
Chad Hamilton	1 SOMXG	Partner, O'Sullivan Creel, LLP (FWB Chamber)
Dr. Karen Chapman	1 SOMDG	Okaloosa County Health Department
Ted Corcoran	1 SOG	FWB Chamber of Commerce/Destin City Council
Chris Sehman	1 SOW/CCC	Owner, Helen Back

