

COLONEL JOEL DOUGLAS CUSKER



Colonel Joel Cusker enlisted with the Montana National Guard in 1978 as a cavalry scout. He was commissioned in 1981 as the distinguished honor graduate from the Montana Military Academy.

Colonel Cusker has served with soldiers as a scout, mortarman, and cavalry platoon leader. He has commanded two armor companies, commanded the 208th Regiment, and served as the Officer in Charge of the Central Corps Assistance Group, Coalition Joint Task Force Phoenix, Afghanistan. He is a recipient of the U.S. Army MacArthur Leadership Award and is an award winning published author.

EDUCATION

- 1978 Armored Reconnaissance Specialist, U.S. Army Armor School
- 1981 Officer Candidate School, Montana Military Academy
- 1981 Armor Officer Basic Course (Cavalry), U.S. Army Armor School
- 1984 Bachelor of Arts, History, University of Montana
- 1984 Armor Officer Advanced Course, U.S. Army Armor School
- 1986 Company Commander's Course, Montana Military Academy
- 1987 Training Management Course, National Guard Education Center
- 1988 Battalion S1 Course, National Guard Professional Education Center
- 1989 Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Command and General Staff College
- 1990 Leadership Development Course, National Guard Education Center
- 1992 Joint Firepower Control Course, USAF Air Ground Operations School
- 1992 Air Assault School, National Guard Air Assault School
- 1993 M1 Tank Commander's Course, U. S. Army Tank Commander's Course
- 1994 Command and General Staff Officer Course, Command and General Staff College
- 1995 Quality Advisor Course, U.S. Air Force Quality Center
- 1995 Master Fitness Trainer Course, U.S. Army Infantry School
- 1997 Infantry Brigade Command Course, U.S. Army Infantry School
- 1997 Master of Arts, Military Studies, American Military University
- 2000 United States Army War College (Resident/Fellowship)
- 2000 National Security Fellowship, Harvard University
- 2006 Advanced Joint Professional Military Education, Joint Forces Staff College
- 2007 Joint Task Force Commander Training Course, NORTHCOM
- 2008 Joint Forces Reserve Orientation Course, National Defense University

ASSIGNMENTS

1978-1981 Cavalry Scout, Troop G, 2/163rd Armored Cavalry Regiment
1981-1984 Platoon Leader, Troop G, 2/163rd Armored Cavalry Regiment
1984-1985 Assistant S-3, 2/163rd Armored Cavalry Regiment
1985-1985 Transportation Platoon Leader, HHT, 2/163rd Armored Cavalry
1985-1987 Company Commander, Company H, 2/163rd Armored Cavalry
1987-1987 S-3 Air, HHT, 2/163rd Armored Cavalry Regiment
1987-1988 S-2, HHT, 2/163rd Armored Cavalry Regiment
1988-1991 S-1, HHC, 1-163rd Cavalry
1991-1991 Company Commander, Company A, 1-163rd Cavalry
1991-1992 S-3 Air, HHC, 163rd Armored Brigade
1992-1993 S-3, HHC, 1-163rd Cavalry
1993-1995 Director of Training, Montana Military Academy
1995-1997 Quality Coordinator, Montana National Guard
1997-1999 Commander, 208th Regiment (MTRTI)
2000-2002 Executive Officer, 95th Troop Command (Brigade)
2002-2003 Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (G-1), HQ, STARC, MTARNG
2003-2003 Officer In Charge, Central Corps Assistance Group, Coalition Joint
Task Force Phoenix, Afghanistan
2003-2005 J-5/J-7, Joint Force Headquarters – Montana National Guard
2005-2007 J-3, Joint Force Headquarters – Montana National Guard
2008-Pres Chief-of-Staff, Montana Army National Guard/Vice-Chief-of-Staff,
Joint Force Headquarters - Montana National Guard

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Bronze Star Medal
Meritorious Service Medal with 7 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters
Army Commendation Medal with 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters
Army Achievement Medal with 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters
Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with 4 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters
National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star
Humanitarian Service Medal
Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Hour Glass and M Device
Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon
Montana National Guard Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster
Montana National Guard Commendation Medal
Montana National Guard Outstanding Unit Ribbon
Montana National Guard Active Duty Campaign Ribbon with 4 Bronze Stars
Montana Physical Fitness Ribbon with 5 Silver Oak Leaf Clusters
Kyrgyzstan – Afghanistan Campaign Combat Veteran Medal
Kyrgyzstan Service Medal
Air Assault Badge

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

2LT 26 June 1981
1LT 25 June 1984
CPT 20 August 1986
MAJ 10 August 1992
LTC 26 July 1997
COL 9 December 2002

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The Governor's Advisory Board for Community Services Council (Past)
Alumni, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
The Governor's Advisory Board for State Veterans Cemetery (Past)
Military Affairs Committee, Helena Chamber of Commerce
National Guard Association of the United States
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Leadership Helena Steering Committee (Past)
Montana National Guard Officer's Association
Montana National Guard Enlisted Association
University of Montana Alumni Association
Governor's Cup Race Committee (Past)
Harvard University Faculty Club (Past)
Prickly Pear Sportsman's Association
American Military University Alumni
Outstanding Young Men of America
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Boone and Crockett Club
Armor Association
American Legion