



# SENIOR LEADER BIOGRAPHY



**BG Neil S. Hersey**

**Commandant, U.S. Army Cyber School**

Brigadier General Neil S. Hersey hails from Nürnberg, Germany, and grew up the son of a career government servant. He is a Distinguished Military Graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, where he was commissioned as a military intelligence officer in December 1986. General Hersey's first duty assignment was with the 7th Infantry Division (Light) at Fort Ord, California, where he served as an Infantry Brigade Deputy S2, Low Level Voice Intercept Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, Battalion Operations Officer, and as a Cavalry Squadron S2. In August 1991, he was board selected for rotary-wing flight training, and later departed to Fort Rucker, Alabama, after completing Squadron S2 duties.

In April 1994, he was reassigned to 1st Military Intelligence Battalion (Aerial Exploitation) in Wiesbaden, Germany, where he served as a Mission Operations Officer, Battalion S1/Adjutant, and commanded Alpha and Bravo Companies. He served a second overseas tour at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, as the Intelligence Chief for the U.S. Army Europe Battlefield Coordination Detachment.

In December 1999, Brigadier General Hersey assessed and was selected for a special management assignment, where he served as a Troop Commander and Squadron Executive Officer. In June 2004, Brigadier General Hersey was reassigned as a Special Programs Officer for the United States Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he worked special technical programs for the command.

He assumed command of the 1st Military Intelligence Battalion (Aerial Exploitation) at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany in August 2006, and deployed an enduring manned and unmanned Aerial Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) Task Force in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM in March 2007. In 2008, Brigadier General Hersey was reassigned as the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command's Director for Aviation and Air Sensors, where he executed operational oversight and management of the Army's five Aerial Exploitation Battalions and 70 manned and unmanned Aerial ISR assets. Brigadier General Hersey commanded the 21st Cavalry Brigade (Air Combat) at Fort Hood, Texas, a unit charged with manned and unmanned collective combat aviation training, and Security Force Assistance with numerous Partner Nations, and then commanded JTF ODIN in Afghanistan, a Multi-Functional Intelligence Brigade Joint Task Force. Prior to assuming duties as a Deputy J3 for U.S. Central Command, Brigadier General Hersey served as the J3 for the Cyber National Mission Force and JTF-ARES. On 4 August 2017 he took responsibility as the Commandant, U.S. Army Cyber School at Fort Gordon, GA, where he currently serves.

Brigadier General Hersey's operational experience includes deployments to Hungary, Bosnia, Croatia, Macedonia, and Italy in support of Operations Deny Flight, Joint Endeavor, Joint Guard, Joint Forge, and Allied Force. He deployed multiple times to various other countries in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM and other contingency missions. He is a special operations qualified Master Aviator, and Silver Order of Saint Michael recipient, rated in multiple rotary-wing and fixed-wing aircraft with over 3700 total flight hours, over 800 combat hours, and over 900 imminent danger hours.

Brigadier General Hersey is a graduate of the Military Intelligence Basic and Advanced Courses, the U.S. Army Rotary-Wing and Fixed-Wing Courses, the U.S. Air Force Command and General Staff College, and the National War College. He holds Master's Degrees in National Security Strategy and Military Applied Arts and Sciences from the National Defense University and the Air University.

His awards and decorations are typical of an officer of his rank and time in service. He is married to the former Dr. Kathleen Smith, of Gambrills, Maryland. They have two children, Ned (19) and Kayleigh (12).

