



U.S. ARMY JOHN F. KENNEDY
SPECIAL WARFARE CENTER AND SCHOOL
The Special Operations Center of Excellence

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 5 GARY OSTRANDER

Command Chief Warrant Officer

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Gary Ostrander was the Command Chief Warrant Officer for 2nd Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School from 2021 to 2023. He most recently served as chief operations warrant at the 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne) from 2020 to 2021.



Ostrander joined the Army in 1994 from his hometown of Hillsboro, Oregon. After his first year as an aircraft powerplant repair technician in the 603rd Aviation Maintenance Battalion, he attended the Special Forces Qualification Course to become a Special Forces engineer sergeant. He spent most of his career with 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Carson, Colorado, while on deployments throughout U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command, and U.S. Central Command areas of responsibility.

Ostrander first served as the senior engineer sergeant for Special Forces Operational Detachments – Alpha 041 and 044. He deployed twice to Kosovo for Operation Joint Guardian and supported our European allies on multiple Joint Combined Exchange Training engagements. In 2004, he completed Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker (now known as Fort Novosel), Alabama, and became an assistant detachment commander on ODA 053, and later ODA 044, 2nd Bn., 10th SFG(A).

Ostrander has had the privilege of serving with the nation's most adaptive problem solvers and strategic partners from four continents. He led at every level from detachment commander to group command chief warrant. His assignments include numerous deployments to enhance partnerships for regional security, multiple rotations for Operation Iraqi Freedom, the establishment of the Georgian Special Operations Forces Battalion, and two tours to Africa for Operation Observant Compass to counter the Lord's Resistance Army. His other key assignments include detachment commander at the HAVE ACE East training detachment at Hurlburt Field, Florida (from 2008 to 2011), and operations officer and assistant chief of staff at the NATO Special Operations Headquarters in Mons, Belgium, from 2016 to 2020.

He and his wife, Tara, celebrate 25 years of marriage. They have two wonderful, servant-leader children. Amber is an educational specialist in Colorado Springs and their son, Keghun, is attending The Citadel and plans to become an Army officer.