BIOGRAPHY



Eric A. “Viking” Follstad

Dept of the Air Force Civilian

Science and Technology Division

US Central Command J8

**CURRENT ASSIGNMENTS:**

Mr. Eric A. Follstad serves as the acting Science and Technology Division Chief, Resources and Analysis Directorate J8, US Central Command (USCENTCOM), where he is directly responsible for providing the best military advice to the Commander and staff on scientific and technology efforts across industry, academic, and the military services. He leads a diverse staff charged with developing rapid prototyping, experimentation, and conceptual approaches against validated and emerging joint warfighting needs. Responsibilities include the formulation & publication of the annual USCENTCOM Science and Technology Integrated Priority List (STIPL), development of USCENTCOM-unique Limited Objective Experiments (LOEs), Joint Tests (JT), Quick Reaction Tests (QRT), as well as membership & participation within the Joint Concept Development & Experimentation (JCD&E) enterprise. He also supports numerous OUSD(R&E) activities within their broad portfolios of RDT&E efforts.

Additionally, Mr. Follstad serves as a Subject Matter Expert (SME) on the USCENTCOM staff on matters concerning Integrated Air and Missile Defense, Counter-UAS, and Joint Aerospace integration to include deep technology work in Operationalizing the Stratosphere (OTS).

**PAST EXPERIENCE:**

Previous to his current assignment, Mr. Follstad performed duties as the Executive Officer to the Director, Resources and Analysis J8, USCENTCOM and was additionally involved in Transformation and Integration activities led by the former US Joint Forces Command J86. During this period, Mr. Follstad served as the USCENTCOM principle investigator on the USCENTCOM operational assessment of the Solid State Laser Quick Reaction Capability AN/SEQ-3(XN-1) US Navy Laser Weapon System (LaWS) installed and operated on the LPD-15 USS PONCE.

A career Marine Corps Officer, Mr. Follstad served twenty- years as an Air Command and Control Officer achieving qualifications as Senior Air Director, Weapons and Tactics Instructor, and a graduate of Naval Fighter Weapons School “Top Gun” Air Intercept Controller (AIC) course. Mr. Follstad served as the operational test director for the Marine Corps Operational Test and Evaluation Activity (MCOTEA) Y2K Operational Evaluation (OPEVAL) on Okinawa Japan prior to the year 2000 roll-over. During this Y2K OPEVAL, he served as the III MEF operational test director for all air command and control systems undergoing Y2K compliance testing. Prior to his assignment in Japan, Mr. Follstad also served as the Academic Department Head and Tactical Air Command Center (TACC) Division Head at Marine Aviation Weapons & Tactics Squadron-One (MAWTS-1) at MCAS Yuma Az. concurrently serving as the deputy test director for the I MEF Y2K OPEVAL for 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (3rdMAW). Mr. Follstad successfully completed numerous command assignments within or supporting all four Marine Aircraft Wings to include participation within the JFACC staff during OPERATION Restore Hope, Somalia. More recently, Mr. Follstad deployed to HQ Resolute Support (RSM) Kabul Afghanistan for a one-year Civilian Expeditionary Workforce (CEW) assignment supporting NATO Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) implementation.

**EDUCATION:**

Graduate – MSM, Leadership & Organizational Effectiveness, Troy University 2005

Graduate - BS, Industrial Technology, Minnesota State University-Mankato 1985

Graduate - Defense Acquisition Workforce - Science and Technology Management 2005

Graduate - Numerous professional military education programs/schools

**AFFILIATION**

Completed 20-years’ service as a Commissioned Officer, U.S. Marine Corps (1985-2006)

Board President; Lumsden Trace Homeowners Association (2003-)

Dept. of the Navy Consolidated Adjudication Facility-Top Secret Clearance (1993-) Membership in the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) International.

**AWARDS & HONORS**

CJCS Joint Meritorious Civilian Service Award

Joint Civilian Service Achievement Award

Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal; Navy-Marine Corps

Commendation w/Gold Star; Joint Service Achievement Medal; Navy-Marine Corps

Achievement Medal; Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation w/silver device; Navy Unit

Commendation; Meritorious Unit Commendation; National Defense Service Medal w/gold

star; Korean Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, GWOT Service

Medal, Sea Service deployment with Silver Star, Non-Article 5 NATO Medal.

**FAMILY**

Mr. Follstad is a native of Lake City Minnesota. He is married to the former Sarah Swanson of Atlantic Iowa. They have two Vietnamese adopted children, Lance Corporal (USMC) Hailey age 22 and Jacob age 20.