

Colonel Nick Gist is a native of Alpine, CA. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Aviation upon his graduation from the United States Military Academy (USMA) in 1994 where he earned a B.S. in Life Science.

Following completion of the Aviation Officer Basic Course and flight school, COL Gist served as Assistant Airfield Operations Officer, Platoon Leader, and Airfield/Detachment Operations Officer at Polk Army Airfield, Fort Polk, LA. He then served as Assistant Battalion Operations Officer for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Regiment, 17<sup>th</sup> Aviation Brigade, forward deployed in the Republic of Korea. While in Korea, he commanded Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 2-52<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Regiment. He served in an officer broadening assignment as Recruiting Programs Officer at U.S. Army Cadet Command before being selected for Advanced Civil Schooling.

After earning a M.Ed. in Exercise Science from the University of Georgia, COL Gist was assigned to the faculty at USMA, where he served as an Instructor in the Department of Physical Education. Following completion of Intermediate Level Education at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS, COL Gist was again forward deployed to the Republic of Korea. He served in consecutive assignments as Executive Officer for the 602<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Support Battalion and 3-2<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion), 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. His next assignment was as Deputy Chief, Stability Support Transition Team, in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn in Ninewa Province, Iraq, as a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division.

Upon his return from Iraq, COL Gist completed graduate studies and earned a Ph.D. in Exercise Physiology at the University of Georgia. In his second tour in the Department of Physical Education, he was selected as an Academy Professor and served as the department's Deputy Director. In the summer of 2014, he completed a short combat tour in Regional Command-South as part of Operation Enduring Freedom in Kandahar, Afghanistan. On April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015, he assumed his current responsibilities as Head of the Department of Physical Education with the historical title of "Master of the Sword". From August 2016 to May 2017, COL Gist deployed to Afghanistan with 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division as Chief of the Commander's Action Group. He continues to serve as the Master of the Sword.

His military education includes the Aviation Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Initial Entry Rotary Wing Flight School, Combined Arms Services Staff School, Master Fitness Trainer Course, CH-47 Aircraft Qualification Course, and Intermediate Level Education (Command and General Staff College). COL Gist's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and Meritorious Service Medal (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters). He is a Senior Army Aviator and has earned the Parachutist Badge and Air Assault Badge.

He is married to the former Dea Marie Newman and has two children, Madeleine (USMA 2021) and Graham (USMA 2024).