



LT. COL. JOHNATHON M. KUPKA
COMMANDER
HEADQUARTERS COMMAND BATTALION
JOINT BASE MYER-HENDERSON HALL



Lt. Col. Johnathon M. Kupka was born in Bakersfield, Calif., and raised in Aberdeen, Wash. He received his commission in 1997 through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash. Kupka was commissioned an Infantry Officer and assigned to the Republic of Korea at the United Nations Command Security Battalion – Joint Security Area and the 1/503rd, 2nd Infantry Division. He was subsequently assigned to the 1/24th, 25th Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Wash.

Kupka became a Special Forces Officer after completing Special Forces Assessment and Selection, Infantry Officer Advanced Course, Combined Armed Service Staff School, and Special Forces Qualification Course. He was assigned as a Detachment Commander and Headquarters Support Company Commander in 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Lewis, Wash. He was then selected as a Joint/Army Staff Intern and assigned to Washington, D.C., where he attended Georgetown University and served as an Intern to the Deputy Secretary of Defense.



In 2008, he attended the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. He then forward deployed to the Republic of Korea, where he commanded the 39th Special Forces Detachment, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne). In 2011, he was assigned to the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies at Fort Leavenworth. In 2012, he was assigned to the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School with duty as a graduate student at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kan. He completed his studies there in May 2015.

Kupka's military education includes Airborne School; Air Assault School; Infantry Mortar Leaders' Course; Ranger School; Special Forces Qualification Course; Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape School; Static Line Jump Master Course; and Military Free Fall Parachutist Course. He holds a bachelor's degree from Pacific Lutheran University and master's degrees from Georgetown University and the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies. He also holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science from the University of Kansas.

His highest military award is the Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster. Kupka's other military decorations include the Ranger Tab, Special Forces Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Military Free Fall Parachutist Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and Office of the Secretary of Defense Badge.