



Col. Steven W. Kihara

Commander
U.S. Army Redstone Test Center

Col. Steven W. Kihara was born in Spokane, Wash. He was designated a Distinguished Military Graduate and commissioned in the Regular Army upon graduation from Gonzaga University in May 1984. After initial Infantry officer training, he was subsequently inducted into Aviation Branch upon completion of flight school and was assessed to the Army Acquisition Corps in 1994.

He assumed his current duties as Commander of the Redstone Test Center, U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama on 20 August 2009.

Col. Kihara's civilian education includes a B.S. degree in Chemistry from Gonzaga University and a Masters degree in Procurement and Acquisition Management from Webster University. Col. Kihara's military education includes: the Infantry Officer Basic Course, the Aviation Officer Advanced Course, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the Army Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army Materiel Acquisition Management Course. He attended both the U.S. Army Rotary and Fixed-wing Aircraft Qualification Courses and has served as an Aeroscout Instructor Pilot in the OH-58A/C helicopter. Col. Kihara is a Master Army Aviator, graduate of the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, certified Experimental Test Pilot, member of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots, and has accumulated over 4,000 flight hours in more than 65 different aircraft.

Col. Kihara has had various command and staff positions during 28 years of active military service. His assignments include positions such as: Platoon Leader, 214th Attack Helicopter Battalion, Ft Lewis, Wash.; Platoon Leader, 5th Attack Helicopter Battalion/1-5 AVN (Attack), Ft Polk, La.; Flight Operations Officer and Assistant S-3, 1-5 AVN (Attack), Ft Polk, La.; Platoon Commander, E CO 1-14th AVN, Aviation Training Brigade, Ft Rucker, Ala.; and Commander, A CO 1-2 AVN (Attack), Korea.

Col. Kihara's research, development, test, evaluation and acquisition assignments include: Test Project Officer and Experimental Test Pilot, Airworthiness Qualification Test Directorate (AQTD), U.S. Army Aviation Technical Test Center (ATTC), Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.; Experimental Test Pilot, Flight Test Directorate, ATTC, Fort Rucker, Ala.; Experimental Test Pilot/UK Exchange Officer, Boscombe Down, England; Experimental Test Pilot, Rapid Prototyping Division, Aviation Applied Technology Directorate, Ft Eustis, Va.; Executive Officer and Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, Patuxent River, Md.; Commander, Aviation Applied Technology Directorate; and currently Commander, Redstone Test Center.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (3), Army Commendation Medal (3), Army Achievement Medal (2), Korea Defense Service Medal, Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, and Army Superior Unit Award. He has also earned the Master Army Aviator Badge and Parachutist Badge.