

Major General Thomas J. Trask



Director, Force Structure, Requirements, Resources and Strategic Assessments, U.S. Special Operations Command

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University alumnus, Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Trask, will provide the Spring 2013 Graduation address at Embry-Riddle Prescott. General Trask graduated from Embry-Riddle Prescott earning his Bachelor of Science Degree in Aeronautical Engineering and was a member of the Prescott Campus' inaugural AE Class in 1984.

General Trask is the Director for Force Structure, Requirements, Resources and Strategic Assessments (J8), Headquarters U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, Fla. He is responsible for USSOCOM's program analysis, evaluation, strategic acquisition resource oversight and cost analysis. General Trask is also responsible for providing financial resources and services required for the organization, equipping and training of special operations forces.

General Trask entered the Air Force in 1984 as a Reserve Officer Training Corps graduate from Embry-Riddle Prescott. He is a command pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours, including 51 combat missions supporting operations in Panama, Iraq, Bosnia and Kosovo. The general has previously commanded the 20th Special Operations Squadron, 347th Rescue Operations Group, 58th Special Operations Wing, Squadron Officer College and 23rd Air Force. His staff assignments have included the Joint Staff; Headquarters U.S. Special Operations Command; U.S. Central Operations Command; Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command; and NATO AIRSOUTH.

Trask continues to expand his education, earning Master's Degrees in International Relations from Troy State University; National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College; and Airpower Art and Science from the School of Advanced Airpower Studies at Maxwell AFB, as well as participates in many leadership seminars.

Gen. Trask is a decorated war hero, earning citations which includes the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, in addition to the Mackay Trophy awarded for the "most meritorious flight of the year" by an Air Force person, persons, or organization for extraordinary heroism and self-sacrifice of the crew during the rescue of a downed U.S. Navy F-14 Tomcat pilot in Iraq during Operation Desert Storm.

Tom along with his wife Karin, have been long-time supporters of Embry-Riddle students through annual fund donations as well as funding new equipment within the Tracy Doryland Wind Tunnel Lab. During his 20-year class reunion, Tom contributed a lead gift for the campaign, along with his classmates, creating a class gift to name the Wind Tunnel Lab in Professor Doryland's honor. Through their generosity, Tom and Karin have enhanced one of the best undergraduate wind tunnel facilities in the state of Arizona.

Maj. Gen. Thomas Trask represents the best of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and serves our Nation as an inspiration to future pilots and leaders.