



Col. Timothy M. Karcher
Deputy Commander/Chief of Staff
U.S. Army Operational Test Command

Col. Tim Karcher, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, is a 1989 graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia. His education includes a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science from the University of Missouri and two masters degrees from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He is a graduate of the Infantry Officer Basic Course, the Armor Officer Advance Course, Command and General Staff College, and the School of Advanced Military Studies.

After completion of the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Karcher was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry Regiment at Fort Irwin, California, where he served as a rifle platoon leader, rifle company executive officer, battalion motor officer, and battalion assistant operations officer.

Following attendance at the Armor Officer Advance Course, Karcher was assigned to Germany, initially commanding Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment and subsequently commanding Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment. Following his commands in Germany, Karcher served as a small group instructor at the Infantry Captains Career Course, Fort Benning, Georgia.

Upon completion of the Command and General Staff College and the School of Advanced Military Studies, Karcher was assigned to Fort Hood, Texas, where he initially served as a Corps planner on the III Corps and Multi-National Corps – Iraq staffs. While deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom II (OIF II), Karcher transitioned to the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, in June 2004. In his initial assignment with 3rd Brigade, Karcher served as the Battalion Operations Officer, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, during combat operations in Iraq, participating in major battles in An Najaf (August 2004) and Fallujah (November 2004). Upon returning from his first deployment to Iraq, Karcher served as the Battalion Executive Officer, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, and the 3rd Brigade Operations Officer.

During his second tour of duty in Iraq, Karcher served as a Brigade Military Transition Team Chief in the restive Diyala Province, northeast of Baghdad. While advising an Iraqi Army brigade conducting a dismounted urban assault, Karcher received a gunshot wound to the left arm and was evacuated from theater. He quickly recovered and rehabilitated, returning to his unit to serve as the Provincial Police Transition Team Chief for the Diyala Province.

From March 2008 through June 2009, Karcher commanded 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment. During his third deployment to Iraq, while serving in Sadr City in northeastern Baghdad in June 2009, Karcher's vehicle was struck by an explosively formed penetrator (EFP), resulting in the traumatic amputation of his legs above the knees. As a result of these injuries, he spent more than two years healing and rehabilitating in various hospitals in Europe and the United States.

Following his rehabilitation, Karcher returned to duty, serving as the director of the Army Wounded Warrior Program. In 2014, Karcher returned to Fort Hood to serve as G3 Operations Officer for the U.S. Army Operational Test Command. Karcher currently serves as the USAOTC Chief of Staff.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Expert Infantryman's Badge, the United States Army Ranger Tab, and the Airborne Badge.