



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL KENNETH R. BURTON JR.

Col Kenneth R. Burton Jr. is Pacific Air Forces Deputy Chief of Staff, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. He oversees staff actions of 950 Component MAJCOM personnel supporting the Commander of the Pacific Air Forces and the execution of United States INDOPACOM air operations. He aides in the development of strategic direction for three Numbered Air Forces, 10 Wings, and three Joint Bases with over 46,000 Airman across 36 nations. Additionally, Col Burton serves as the Pacific Air Forces Watch Center Director, overseeing Air Component integration and Battle Staff readiness across the joint competition continuum.

Col Burton is a career Weather Officer, certified Master Meteorologist, and Senior Parachutist. He entered the Air Force in 1994 serving four years in the Colorado Air National Guard as an enlisted Aircraft Hydraulic Systems specialist. He received his commission upon graduation from Air Force Officer Training School in 1998. His leadership experience includes various positions as flight commander, director of operations, squadron commander, group commander and headquarters staff officer in direct support of joint, US Air Force, US Army, and NATO activities. Col Burton has deployed in support of Exercise BRIGHT STAR and Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and ENDURING FREEDOM. Prior to his current position, Col Burton was the Commander, Air Force Operations Group, Pentagon, Washington D.C.



EDUCATION

1998 Bachelor of Science in Meteorology, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Denver, CO
2003 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, AL
2005 Master of Science in Meteorology, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA
2008 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
2010 U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth AIN, Leavenworth, KS
2014 Air War College, by correspondence
2018 Master of Science in Strategic Studies, Air War College, Air University, Maxwell AFB, AL

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Oct 1998 – Mar 2000, Operational Meteorologist, 28th Operations Support Squadron, Ellsworth AFB, SD
2. Apr 2000 – Aug 2003, Chief of Fighter Weather Operations, 18th Operations Support Squadron, Kadena AB, Japan
3. Sep 2003 – Mar 2005, Student, Air Force Institute of Technology, Naval Postgraduate School, CA
4. Apr 2005 – May 2009, Flight Commander, 25th Operational Weather Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ
5. Jun 2009 – Jun 2010, Student, US Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth AIN, KS
6. Jul 2010 – Apr 2013, Director of Operations, 18th Weather Squadron, Fort Bragg, NC
7. Apr 2013 – Apr 2014, Commander, 19th Expeditionary Weather Squadron, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan
8. Jun 2014 – Jun 2016, Commander, 426th Air Base Squadron, Stavanger, Norway

9. Jun 2016 – Jul 2017, Chief, Weather Integration Branch, Weather Directorate, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington D.C.
10. Jul 2017 – May 2018, Student, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, AL
11. May 2018 – Jul 2020, Space Branch Chief/METOC Operations Officer, Joint Staff, J-3, Washington D.C.
12. Jul 2020 – Jun 2023, Commander, Air Force Operations Group, Pentagon, Washington D.C.
13. Jun 2023 – Present, Deputy Chief of Staff, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. May 2018 – July 2020, Branch Chief/Operations Officer, Joint Staff, J-3, Washington D.C., as a lieutenant colonel

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit
Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster
Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters
Air and Space Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster
Air and Space Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster
Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two service stars

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant – September 25, 1998
First Lieutenant – September 25, 2000
Captain – September 25, 2002
Major – June 1, 2008
Lieutenant Colonel – October 1, 2013
Colonel – November 1, 2019

(CURRENT AS OF SEPTEMBER 2024)