



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL SEAN S. MCKENNA

Colonel Sean S. McKenna is the Director of Public Affairs, Headquarters U.S. Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. In addition to serving as the communication advisor to the Pacific Air Forces Commander and headquarters staff, he is responsible for communication activities spread over half the globe in support of more than 46,000 Airmen serving principally in Japan, Korea, Hawaii, Alaska, and Guam. He provides direct guidance and support to more than 230 Air Force communication professionals and musicians at three Numbered Air Forces and nine Air Force installations across the Indo-Pacific region.

Colonel McKenna received his commission in May 1992 through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, after spending his first two years of undergraduate study at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He is a senior public affairs officer who has commanded a squadron and held positions at the squadron, wing, center, and major command levels. Additionally, he deployed three times to Southwest Asia in support of Operations Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom, as well to Cuba in support of Operation Restore Democracy. Prior to his current assignment, Colonel McKenna served as the Chief of Plans and Resources, Headquarters Air Force Recruiting Service at Randolph AFB, Texas.



EDUCATION

- 1992 Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism (Cum Laude), Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos
- 1993 Public Affairs Officers Course (Honor Graduate), Defense Information School, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind.
- 1998 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama
- 2000 Master of Arts degree in Journalism (Distinguished Graduate), University of Colorado, Boulder
- 2001 Joint Public Affairs Officers Course, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
- 2003 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
- 2006 Master of Arts degree in Military Operational Art and Science, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
- 2008 Air War College, by correspondence
- 2015 Senior Public Affairs Officers Course, Defense Information School, Fort Meade, Maryland

ASSIGNMENTS

1. January 1993 - January 1996, Public Affairs Staff Officer, Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field, Florida (March 1995 - June 1995, Chief, Public Affairs, 4404th Expeditionary Wing, King Abdul Aziz AB, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia)
2. January 1996 - May 1998, Chief, Public Affairs, 425th Air Base Squadron, Izmir Air Station, Turkey
3. August 1998 - May 2000, student, Air Force Institute of Technology, University of Colorado, Boulder
4. May 2000 - May 2002, Chief, Internal Information Division, Headquarters Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, Colorado
5. May 2002 - May 2003, Chief, Plans and Environmental Issues, Headquarters Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, Colorado (April 2002 - July 2002, Chief, Public Affairs, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, Al Udeid AB, Qatar)
6. May 2003 - July 2005, Chief, Public Affairs and Band Officer Assignments, Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Texas

7. August 2005 - June 2006, student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
8. July 2006 - June 2008, Chief, Public Affairs, Headquarters Air Force Recruiting Service, Randolph AFB, Texas
9. July 2008 - July 2010, Commander, 344th Recruiting Squadron, Arlington, Texas
10. July 2010 - June 2012, Deputy Director, Public Affairs, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Randolph AFB, Texas
11. June 2012 - June 2013, Director, Public Affairs, Air Force Central Command, Al Udeid AB, Qatar
12. June 2013 - August 2017, Director, Public Affairs, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas
13. August 2017 - July 2022, Chief, Plans and Resources Division, Headquarters Air Force Recruiting Service, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas
14. July 2022 - Present, Director, Public Affairs, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster
Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters
Air and Space Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters
Air and Space Achievement Medal
Meritorious Unit Award
Air and Space Outstanding Unit Award with Valor and four oak leaf clusters
Air and Space Organizational Excellence Award with five oak leaf clusters
Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Air Education and Training Command's Best Crisis Communication Award, 2013
Air Combat Command's Best Issues Management Award, 2012
Air Education and Training Command's Most Outstanding Communication Program, 2008 Air Force Space Command's Public Affairs Company Grade Officer of the Year, 2002 Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Director's Excellence Award, 2001
Squadron Officers School's Chief of Staff Flight, 1998
U.S. Air Forces in Europe Sportswriter of the Year, 1997

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 15, 1992
First Lieutenant Sept. 16, 1994
Captain Sept. 16, 1996
Major March 1, 2003
Lieutenant Colonel March 1, 2008
Colonel June 1, 2014

(Current as of October 2023)