



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL MELISSA J. MILNER

Colonel Melissa J. Milner 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, she 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. She 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 Milner is a graduate of Louisiana Tech University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and was commissioned in 2004 after completing Officer Training School. She has planned and implemented public affairs strategies at the Joint Staff, Combatant Command, Air Staff, air and space operations center, major command, and wing levels. She has deployed to provincial reconstruction teams in Afghanistan and to the Combined Air and Space Operations Center in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and NEW DAWN. Prior to her current assignment, Colonel Milner served as the speechwriter to the Pacific Air Forces Commander.

EDUCATION

- 2003 Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, Louisiana
- 2005 Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama
- 2005 Public Affairs Qualification Course, Defense Information School, Fort Meade, Maryland
- 2007 Air and Space Operations Offensive Course, Hurlburt Field, Florida
- 2007 Information Operations Course, Hurlburt Field, Florida
- 2012 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama
- 2012 Master of Science in International Relations and Conflict Resolution, American Military University, Charles Town, West Virginia
- 2013 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
- 2018 Master of Science in Airpower Strategy and Technology Integration, Center for Strategy and Technology, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama
- 2020 Air War College, by correspondence
- 2024 National Defense Fellow, Watson School of International and Public Affairs, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 2004 – March 2006, Chief, Internal Information, 49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs, Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico
2. April 2006 – April 2007, Information Operations/Public Affairs Officer, Jalalabad Provincial Reconstruction Team, Jalalabad, Afghanistan
3. September 2007 – April 2009, Officer in Charge, Public Affairs Operations, Strategy Division, 603rd Air and Space Operations Center, Ramstein Air Base, Germany
4. June 2009 – April 2010, Information Operations/Public Affairs Officer, Nangarhar Provincial Reconstruction Team, Forward Operating Base Finley-Shields, Afghanistan

5. March 2010 – June 2010, Chief, Influence Operations, Information Operations Team, Strategy Division, 603rd Air and Space Operations Center, Ramstein Air Base, Germany
6. June 2010 – June 2013, Chief, Public Affairs, 60th Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base, California
7. June 2011 – December 2011, Chief, Media Operations, Combined Air and Space Operations Center, Air Forces Central Command, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar
8. July 2013 – December 2014, Chief, Leadership Development, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
9. January 2015 – April 2016, Media Operations Officer, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
10. May 2016 – June 2017, Public Affairs Advisor and Speechwriter to the Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
11. July 2017 – June 2018, Fellow, Chief of Staff of the Air Force Blue Horizons Fellows Program, Air Command and Staff College, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama
12. July 2018 – July 2020, Commander, 2nd Audiovisual Squadron, Air Force Public Affairs Agency, Hill Air Force Base, Utah
13. July 2020 – July 2023, Deputy Director for Public Affairs, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii
14. July 2023 – July 2024, National Defense Fellow, Watson School of International and Public Affairs, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island
15. July 2024 – July 2025, Speechwriter, Commander's Action Group, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii
16. August 2025 – Present, Director, Public Affairs, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Bronze Star

Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Air and Space Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Army Commendation Medal

Joint Service Achievement Medal

Army Achievement Medal

Air Force Combat Action Medal

National Defense Service Medal

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two service stars

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal with one service star

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant August 13, 2004

First Lieutenant August 13, 2006

Captain August 13, 2008

Major February 1, 2015

Lieutenant Colonel July 1, 2019

Colonel April 1, 2025

(Current as of August 2025)