



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL HEATHER W. BLACKWELL

Colonel Heather W. Blackwell is the Commander, 81st Training Wing, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. She commands 12,000 Airmen and civilians, providing technical training for officers, enlisted, and civilians of the U.S. Air Force, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserves as well as other Department of Defense agencies in addition to international students. The training covers numerous electronic, computer, weather, medical, personnel, comptroller, and information management career fields and creates combat capability for expeditionary air, space, and cyberspace forces.

Colonel Blackwell graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1997. She has served in a variety of assignments to include: the Director of Legislative Affairs for U.S. Cyber Command, a National Security Fellow in the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, an Assistant Executive Officer for the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and as an Air Force Legislative Fellow for Senator Ben Nelson (D-NE) where she was responsible for his military and foreign relations portfolios. In 2015, she served as commander of the 690th Cyberspace Operations Group at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, where she oversaw six squadrons and two detachments tasked with operating and maintaining the Air Force's global enterprise network.



EDUCATION

- 1997 Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- 2001 Masters of Information Systems Management, Hawaii Pacific University, Hawaii
- 2002 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2007 Masters of Business Administration, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va.
- 2008 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2009 Air Force Legislative Fellowship, Washington, D.C.
- 2010 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2015 National Security Fellow, Harvard University, Boston, Mass.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. May 1997–May 1999, Assistant Chief, Communications and Information Division, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
2. May 1999–January 2001, Executive Officer to the Commander, 615th Air Mobility Support Group, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
3. January 2001–May 2001, Crew Commander, Network Operations and Security Center, Computer Net Defense Division, Lackland AFB, Texas
4. May 2001–January 2002, Flight Commander, Network Operations and Security Center, Computer Net Defense Division, Lackland AFB, Texas
5. January 2002–April 2003, Flight Commander, Network Operations and Security Center, Computer Net Operations Division, Lackland AFB, Texas
6. April 2003–November 2004, Executive Officer to the Commander, Eighth Air Force, Barksdale AFB, La.
7. November 2004–August 2005, Base Communications Team Chief, Communications Directorate, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Va.
8. August 2005–March 2007, Expeditionary Communications Team Chief, Communications Directorate, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Va.

9. March 2007–June 2008, ACC Communications Officer Functional Manager, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Va.
10. June 2008–December 2009, Air Force Legislative Fellow, Washington, D.C.
11. January 2010–April 2010, Air Force Liaison to U.S. Senate, Office of the Secretary of the United States, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
12. April 2010–April 2012, Commander, 87th Communications Squadron, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.
13. April 2012–June 2014, Assistant Executive Officer to the Air Force Chief of Staff, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
14. June 2014–July 2015, National Security Fellow, Harvard University, Boston, Mass.
15. July 2015–July 2017, Commander, 690th Cyberspace Operations Group, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas
16. July 2017–May 2019, Director of Legislative Affairs, U.S. Cyber Command, Fort Meade, Md.
17. May 2019–Present, Commander, 81st Training Wing, Keesler AFB, Miss.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Superior Service Medal

Legion of Merit

Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 28, 1997

First Lieutenant May 28, 1999

Captain May 28, 2001

Major Jan. 1, 2007

Lieutenant Colonel Dec. 1, 2010

Colonel Aug. 1, 2015

(Current as of May 2019)