



# BIOGRAPHY



## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### COLONEL CHANCE W. GERAY

Col Chance W. Geray is the Commander, 81st Training Group, Keesler Air Force Base (AFB), MS. He commands the United States Air Force's second largest technical training group consisting of more than 4,000 officer, enlisted, and civilian personnel from all four Department of Defense services and international militaries. He leads 1,300 instructors and staff who deliver courses to over 2,500 non-prior service Airmen and 500 temporary duty students daily, ultimately producing 29,000 course graduates annually.

Colonel Geray earned his commission through R.O.T.C. at North Dakota State University in 1997. His career highlights include, staff, and operational command positions both in-garrison and deployed. Colonel Geray served as Commander, 1st Joint Communications Squadron, Joint Communications Support Element, MacDill Air Force Base, FL from 2013 through 2015 where he commanded 90 Joint military, Active Duty and Reservists, plus government civilians and contractors supporting three Combatant Commanders and Special Operations forces on land, sea, and Airborne. His staff experience includes 12th Air Force and Southern Air Force Communications Plans and Chief Engineer, Executive Officer to the J6 at US Pacific Command, Chief, Air Force Forces Communications Division and Chief, Programming Branch at Air Force Special Operations Command. His deployed experience includes service as the J6 for a



Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component and Chief Engineer for the Combined Air Operations Center supporting USSOCOM and USCENTCOM spanning combat Operations SOUTHERN WATCH, ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, and NEW DAWN. As a Deputy Group Commander, 435th Air and Space Communications Group, he led 547 Airmen with \$150 million in equipment in three squadrons providing United States Air Forces in Europe's only combat communications, specialized maintenance, and command, control, communications, computer, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems support for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, United States European Command and Africa Command. His responsibilities included combat readiness of theater deployable communications and airfield assets; operation and maintenance of the theater's Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communications System, Global Command and Control System and Unit Level Bridge to Unit Command and Control System as well as intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance networks; and specialized maintenance of communications systems valued at \$1 billion across U.S. Air Forces in Europe's 104-country Area of Responsibility. In 2017, he deployed as Commander, 724th Expeditionary Air Base Squadron, Agadez, Niger leading the entire installation of over 400 Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, and Civilians in the most austere region of Africa to build an air base supporting USAFRICOM's 3rd Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance hub. Col Geray is a 2019 graduate of the United States Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania where he also received a Master of Science in Strategic Studies.

## **EDUCATION**

1997 Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, North Dakota State University, ND  
2002 Masters of Science degree in Computer Information Systems, University of Phoenix, AZ  
2004 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL  
2009 Master's Degree in Military Operational Art and Science, Maxwell AFB, AL  
2012 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, AL, by correspondence  
2016 Chief Information Officer Course by correspondence  
2019 Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. June 1997 – September 1999, Joint Test Systems Software Deputy Manager, San Antonio Air Logistics Center, Kelly AFB, TX
2. September 1999 – September 2002, Deputy and later Chief Engineer, 612th Air Communications Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ
3. September 2002- June 2005, Flight Commander, Network Systems and Chief Engineer for Group, 3rd Combat Communications Group, Tinker AFB, OK
4. June 2005 – June 2008, Executive Officer to J6 and OIC of Technical Infrastructure and Modernization Branches, US Pacific Command Headquarters, Camp Smith, HI
5. June 2008 – June 2009, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
6. June 2009 – June 2013, Chief, Air Force Forces Communications Division, J6 for Joint Special Operations Air Component (deployed), and Chief, Programming Branch, Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field, FL
7. June 2013 – July 2015, Commander, 1st Joint Communications Squadron, Joint Communications support Element, MacDill AFB, FL
8. July 2015 – July 2018, Commander, 724th Expeditionary Air Base Squadron, Niger (deployed) and Deputy Commander, 435th Air and Space Communications Group, Ramstein AB, Germany
9. July 2018 – June 2019, Student, United States Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA
10. July 2019 – Present, Commander, 81st Training Group, Keesler AFB, MS

## **SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS**

1. June 2005 – June 2008, Executive Officer to J6 and OIC of Technical Infrastructure and Modernization Branches, US Pacific Command Headquarters, Camp Smith, HI. as a Captain and Major
2. February 2011 – September 2011, (Deployed) J6, Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component, Special Operations Component-US Central Command, Al Udeid, AB, Qatar as Major
3. June 2013 – July 2015, Commander, 1 Joint Communications Squadron, Joint Communications Support Element, MacDill AFB, FL. as a Lieutenant Colonel.
4. July 2018 – June 2019, Student, U.S. Army War College as a Colonel.

## **BADGES**

Master Cyberspace Operations Badge  
Parachutist (Army Airborne)

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Air Force Information Dominance Outstanding Cyberspace Field Grade Officer of the Year (2016) Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters)  
Meritorious Service Medal (4 Oak Leaf Clusters) Air Force Commendation Medal  
Air Force Achievement Medal

## **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant May 28, 1997  
First Lieutenant May 28, 1999  
Captain May 28, 2001  
Major March 1, 2007  
Lieutenant Colonel May 1, 2012  
Colonel November 1, 2018

(Current as of July 2019)