



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL MELISSA J. MILNER

Lieutenant Colonel Melissa J. Milner is a National Defense Fellow and visiting scholar at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island. Previously she served as the Deputy Director for Public Affairs, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii, where she provided public affairs guidance and planning to senior military commanders and leaders in support of defense operations in the unified combatant command comprising the 36-nation Indo-Pacific region.

She has planned and implemented public affairs efforts at the Joint Staff, Combatant Command, Air Staff, air and space operations center, major command and wing levels. Colonel Milner 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.



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 earned a Master of Science in Airpower Strategy and Technology Integration as a graduate of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force's Blue Horizons Fellows program and earned a master's degree in International Relations and Conflict Resolution from American Military University.

EDUCATION

- 2003 Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, La.
- 2005 Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2005 Public Affairs Qualification Course, Defense Information School, FT Meade, Md.
- 2007 Air and Space Operations Offensive Course, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
- 2007 Information Operations Course, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
- 2012 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2012 Master of Science in International Relations and Conflict Resolution, American Military University, Charles Town, W. Va.
- 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, Ala.
- 2020 Air War College, by correspondence

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 2018 – June 2017, Blue Horizons Chief of Staff of the Air Force Fellow, 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. August 2023 – Present, National Defense Fellow and visiting scholar, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island

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

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

(Current as of September 2023)