



# BIOGRAPHY

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### COLONEL MATTHEW A. LEARD

Col. Matthew A. Leard is the Director of Plans, Programs and Requirements, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. He is responsible for planning and programming a \$7.6 billion annual budget, which supports 60,000 personnel who recruit, train, and educate U.S. Air Force Airmen and international partners across 22 installations. He also develops AETC's inputs to the Program Objective Memorandum, leads AETC Strategic Planning, and manages flying training and technical training operational capability requirements.

Prior to his current position, Col Leard was the Chief of Staff, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. As Chief of Staff, he was the principal advisor to the Commander and Deputy Commander. He supervised implementation of command decisions, plans and policies for a staff of nearly 1,100 military members and civilian employees, and oversaw the headquarters' \$255M budget.

Col. Leard is a 1998 graduate of Midwestern State University, in Wichita Falls, Texas. He earned his commission through Officer Training School in 1999. His operational assignments have included wing, squadron and detachment command and staff officer duties at Headquarters U.S. Transportation Command, Headquarters U.S. Air Force and Headquarters Air Mobility Command.



Col. Leard is a command pilot with more than 4,500 hours in the C-17A, C-21A, C-5M, KC-46A, KC-10, KC-135R, T-1A, T-6A and T-37B. His deployed experience includes Expeditionary Airlift Squadron commander duties and numerous C-17A and C-21A combat missions in support of Operations Joint Forge, Joint Guardian, Northern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

### EDUCATION

1998 Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and Political Science, Midwestern State University, Texas

1999 Officer Training School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2000 Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, Vance AFB, Okla.

2005 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2006 Program in Advanced Security Studies, George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Garmisch, Germany

2010 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence

2011 Master of Military Arts and Sciences, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2012 Air War College, by correspondence

2019 Joint & Combined Warfighting School JPME-II, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.

2020 U.S. Air Force Enterprise Leadership Seminar, Kenan-Flagler School of Business, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

## **ASSIGNMENTS OR CAREER CHRONOLOGY**

1. February 1999–May 2000, Student, Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, Vance AFB, Okla.
2. August 2000–June 2003, C-21A Instructor Pilot, Flight Commander and Scheduler, 86th Operations Group, Detachment 1, Stuttgart Army Airfield, Germany
3. October 2003–April 2007, C-17A Instructor Pilot, Executive Officer 437th Operations Group, Chief Operations Plans, Wing Plans, Assistant Chief of Tactics, 14th Airlift Squadron, Charleston AFB, S.C.
4. April 2007–June 2009, Programmer, Global Mobility Division, Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Programs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
5. June 2009–June 2010, Execution Team Chief, Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff Executive Action Group, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
6. July 2010–June 2011, Student, Air Command & Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
7. July 2011–September 2012, Asst. Director of Operations, 14th Airlift Squadron, Joint Base Charleston, S.C.
8. September 2012–February 2013, Director of Operations, 15th AS, Joint Base Charleston, S.C.
9. February 2013–August 2014, Commander, 437th Operations Support Squadron, Joint Base Charleston, S.C.
10. August 2014–June 2015, Chief, Force Development, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Ill.
11. June 2015–June 2017, Chief, Commander's Action Group, Headquarters U.S. Transportation Command, Scott AFB, Ill.
12. June 2017–June 2019, Vice Commander, 60th AMW, Travis AFB, Calif.
13. June 2019–July 2021, Commander, 97th Air Mobility Wing, Altus AFB, Okla.
14. July 2021–June 2022, Director, Pilot Training Transformation, Headquarters 19th Air Force, JBSA-Randolph, Texas
15. June 2022–August 2023, Chief of Staff, Air Education and Training Command, JBSA-Randolph, Texas
16. August 2023–Present, Director of Plans, Programs, and Requirements, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas

## **FLIGHT INFORMATION [FLIGHT RATED ONLY]**

Rating: command pilot

Flight hours: more than 4,500 hours

Aircraft flown: C-17A, C-21A, C-5M, KC-46A, KC-10, KC-135R, T-37B, T-6A and T-1A

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Defense Superior Service Medal

Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster

Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster

Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster

Kosovo Campaign Medal

Global War on Terrorism

Service Medal/NATO Medal

## **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION [MILITARY ONLY]**

Second Lieutenant Feb. 26, 1999

First Lieutenant Feb. 26, 2001

Captain Feb. 26, 2003

Major Oct. 1, 2008

Lieutenant Colonel Nov. 1, 2012

Colonel May 1, 2017

**(CURRENT AS OF AUGUST 2023)**