



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE

COLONEL NIKI J. LINDHORST

Colonel Niki J. Lindhorst is the Commander of Space Delta 13, temporarily located at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. As the DEL 13 commander she is responsible for Guardian force development through education for 16,000 officers, enlisted, and civilians across the U.S. Space Force.

Col. Lindhorst graduated from Southern Illinois University and earned her commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1995. She has served in a variety of positions including evaluations, training, and space and missile crew operations. She has completed staff assignments at the Joint Staff (J6), Headquarters Air Force (A3), and Headquarters Air Force Space Command (A3). She commanded the Enterprise Operations Squadron at the National Reconnaissance Office in Chantilly, Virginia. Prior to her current position, the colonel last served as the United States Space Force Chair to the Air University President and Commandant and as a faculty instructor at the United States Air Force Air War College.

Col. Lindhorst deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan as Operations Officer to the NATO Training Mission Afghanistan (NTMA) Commander and an advisor to the Afghan National Police, Chief of Operations and Plans Division, at the Afghanistan Ministry of Interior in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



EDUCATION

1995 B.A., Psychology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill. 2001 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. 2005 Master of Arts, Education, Trident University International, Cypress, Calif. 2008 Space 300, National Security Space Institute, Peterson AFB, Colo.

2009 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2009 Master of Science, Military Arts and Science, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala. 2012 Air War College, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. November 1995–August 1996, student, Undergraduate Space & Missile Training/Missile IQT, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
2. August 1996–August 1998, Minuteman III Deputy Missile Combat Crew Commander, Evaluator, Squadron Command Post Deputy, 448 MS, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
3. August 1998–July 2001, Missile Warning Crew Commander, Flight Commander Training, Chief of Evaluations, 6 SWS, Cape Cod AFS, Cape Cod, Mass.
4. July 2001–July 2004, Chief PAVE Phased Array Warning System Training, Flight Commander Ground Based Radar and Enlisted Space Prerequisite Training, 533 TRS, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
5. July 2004–June 2005, Chief, Space Operations Concepts & Policy, Directorate of Air, Space and Nuclear Operations, HQ Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, Colo.
6. June 2005–March 2007, 13S MAJCOM Functional Manager, Directorate of Air, Space and Nuclear Operations, HQ AFSPC, Peterson AFB, Colo.
7. March 2007–August 2008, Air Force Space Command Commander's Action Group, HQ AFSPC, Peterson AFB, Colo.
8. August 2008–June 2009, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
9. June 2009–August 2010, Chief, Force Management Branch, HQ U.S. Air Force/A3, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

10. August 2010–June 2012, Deputy, Space and Missile Training & Force Development Division, 13S Deputy Career Field Manager, HQ Air Force/A3, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
11. June 2012–July 2013, Operations Officer, Enterprise Operations Squadron, Network Operations Group, National Reconnaissance Office, Chantilly, Va.
12. July 2013–June 2015, Commander, Enterprise Operations Squadron, Technology Operations Group, National Reconnaissance Office, Chantilly, Va,
13. June 2015–July 2017, Deputy Division Chief, Space Branch Chief, Transport Division, Directorate of Command, Control, Communications and Computers/Cyber, Joint Staff, J6, the Pentagon, Washington D.C.
14. August 2017–August 2021, Space Chair to the Air University Commander and Faculty Instructor, Department of Leadership and Warfighting, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
15. August 2021–Present, Commander, Space Delta 13, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Bronze Star
Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster
Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster
Joint Meritorious Unit Award with oak leaf cluster
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with five oak leaf clusters
Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with oak leaf cluster
Air Force Recognition Ribbon
National Defense Service Medal Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
Afghanistan Campaign Medal with bronze star
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal Humanitarian Service Medal
Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal
Air Force Overseas Ribbon Short
Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with bronze star
NATO medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant September 1995
First Lieutenant September 1997
Captain September 1999
Major February 2006
Lieutenant Colonel November 2010
Colonel February 2017

(Current as of August 2021)