



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL MERNA HSU

Colonel Merna Hsu is Commander, 381st Training Group, Air Education and Training Command, Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. The group provides initial training for the nation's space and Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) operations and ICBM and air-launched cruise missile maintenance forces. In addition, the group provides training to Air Force Global Strike Command and Air Force Space Command senior staff, and instructor enhancement to support operational wings.

Colonel Hsu entered the Air Force in 1996 as a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. Her assignments have included duties as an evaluator, instructor, weapons officer, deployed Combat Operations Division Space Cell Chief, Special Technical Operations Deputy Chief, and strategic and operational planner. Colonel Hsu has commanded at the detachment and squadron levels. She is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Weapons School, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, and the National War College. Prior to her current assignment, she was Deputy Commander, 614th Air Operations Center (614 AOC).



EDUCATION

- 1994 Service Academy Exchange to U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York; Airborne School, U.S. Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, GA.
- 1996 Bachelor of Science in Human Factors Engineering; Minor in Chinese, U.S. Air Force Academy, CO.
- 2001 Master of Science in Space Studies, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND.
- 2001 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, AL.
- 2003 USAF Weapons School, Nellis AFB, NV.
- 2005 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL., by correspondence
- 2008 Master of Military Operational Art and Science, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL.
- 2009 Master of Air Power Art and Science, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, AL.
- 2012 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, AL., by correspondence
- 2015 Master of Science in National Security Strategy, National War College, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. May 1996-Oct 1996, Assistant to the Chief of Strategic Languages, U.S. Air Force Academy, CO.
2. October 1996-June 1997, Student, Undergraduate Space and Missile Training, Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA.
June 1997-June 2001, Assistant Flight Commander, Instructor, and Evaluator, 320th Missile Squadron, 90th Operations Support Squadron, and 90th Operations Group, F.E. Warren AFB, WY.
3. October 2001-October 2002, Chief, Standardization and Evaluation, and Missile Warning Crew Commander, 13th Space Warning Squadron, Clear Air Force Station, AK2003-December 2003, Student, U.S. Air Force Weapons School, Nellis AFB, NV.
4. October 2002-February 2004, Commander, Detachment 1, 18th Space Surveillance Squadron (later, 18th Space Control Squadron), U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range, N.M.
5. February 2004-March 2005, Chief, Combined Air and Space Operations Center, Combat Operations Division Space Cell; Deputy Chief, Special Technical Operations Cell, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar

6. March 2005-June 2007, AFSPC Command Lead for multiple programs (Space Test and Training Range; Information Operations Integration; Counter Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance; Space Situational Awareness and C2 Integration; and U.S. Air Force Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities, Peterson AFB, CO.
7. June 2007-June 2008, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL.
8. July 2008-June 2009, Student, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, AL.
9. August 2009-August 2010, CJ5 Strategy and Operations Planner, Headquarters North Atlantic Treaty Organization and International Security Assistance Force, Kabul, Afghanistan
10. August 2009-June 2012, Command Speechwriter, Commander, Air Force Space Command and Vice Commander, Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, CO.
11. June 2012-June 2014, Commander, Operations Support Squadron (Data Masked)
12. June 2014-June 2015, Student, National War College, Maxwell AFB, AL.
13. June 2015-July 2017, Chief, Space Policy Branch; Strategic Pol-Mil Planner, Global Policy and Partnerships, J5 Strategic Plans and Policy, Joint Staff, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
14. July 2017-June 2018, Deputy Commander, 614th Air Operations Center, Vandenberg AFB, CA.
15. June 2018-Present, Commander, 381st Training Group, Vandenberg AFB, CA.

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 2009-August 2010, CJ5 Strategy and Operations Planner, Headquarters North Atlantic Treaty Organization and International Security Assistance Force, Kabul, Afghanistan, as a major
2. July 2015-July 2017, Politico-military Planner and Chief, Space Policy Branch, Joint Staff J5, Pentagon, Washington D.C., as a lieutenant colonel

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Bronze Star Medal
Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster
Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters
Air Command and Staff College Outstanding Contributor Award
Air Command and Staff College Outstanding Team Member Award
Squadron Officer School Outstanding Contributor Award

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Action Officer of the Year, Joint Staff J5 Deputy Directorate for Global Policy and Partnerships

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 29, 1996
First Lieutenant May 29, 1998
Captain May 29, 2000
Major April 1, 2006
Lieutenant Colonel June 1, 2011
Colonel August 1, 2017

(Current as of June 2018)