



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL RICHARD F. McELHANEY

Colonel Richard F. McElhaney is the Commander of the 36th Contingency Response Group, Andersen Air Force Guam. As Commander, he is directly responsible for leading 500 combat ready Airmen, across 5 squadrons for PACAF's only expeditionary Air Base Opening, Combat Communications, Security Forces, and RED HORSE capabilities. He directs Building Partnership activities throughout INDOPACOM through exercises, Airmen-to-Airmen talks, OPLAN integration, and Subject Matter Expert Exchanges. He is also responsible for PACAF's Regional Training Center at Northwest Field, which includes Commando Warrior and Silver Flag, training 4000 students per year. In addition, he has operational control over airland and airdrop operations at Northwest Field.

Colonel McElhaney was commissioned in 2000 from Mississippi State University as a ROTC Distinguished Graduate. He has served as a SUPT Instructor, Flight Commander, Assistant Director of Operations, Director of Staff, Operations Group CAG and Stan/Eval Division Chief as a C-130E/H and T-1 evaluator pilot, Operations Support Squadron Commander, MAJCOM Division Chief, and Deputy Executive Assistant for a Combatant Commander. Prior to this assignment, Colonel McElhaney was a student in the Air War College Joint Warfighting Studies Seminar.



Colonel McElhaney is a command pilot with more than 3,800 hours in the C-130E/H/J, T-1, T-44 and T-37 with 190 combat missions in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, and NEW DAWN.

EDUCATION

2000 - Bachelor of Arts and Science, Economics, Mississippi State University, Mississippi (Distinguished Graduate)
2000 - Aerospace Basic Course, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
2006 - Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Alabama (Top Third)
2008 - Master of Aeronautical Science, Embry-Riddle University, Arizona
2014 - Master of Military Operational Arts and Science, Air Staff and Command College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama (Academic Distinction)
2022 - Master of Strategic Studies, Joint Warfighting Studies, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama (Academic Distinction)

ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 2000 – June 2001, Assistant Chief of Wing Scheduling, 33rd Operations Support Squadron, Eglin AFB, Florida.
2. June 2001 – March 2002, Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Columbus AFB, Mississippi.
3. March 2002 – October 2002, Student, Joint Flying Training, NAS Corpus Christi, Texas.
4. October 2002 – September 2006 – Central Scheduler and Executive Officer, C-130E/H Aircraft Commander, 50th Airlift Squadron, Little Rock AFB, Arkansas.

5. September 2006 – February 2007 – Student, T-1 Pilot Instructor Training, 99th Flight Training Squadron, Randolph AFB, Texas.
6. February 2007 – April 2010 – Flight Commander, Assistant Director of Operations, Deputy CAG Director, and T-1 Evaluator Pilot/Side Chief, 14th Operations Group, Columbus AFB, Mississippi.
7. April 2010 – June 2013 – Director of Staff and Chief, Operations Group Stan/Eval, C-130E/H Evaluator Pilot, 19th Operations Group, Little Rock AFB, Arkansas.
8. June 2013 – June 2014 – Student, Air Staff and Command College, Maxwell, AFB, Alabama.
9. June 2014 – June 2017 – Deputy Chief and Chief, Current Operations Division, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.
10. June 2017 – June 2019 – Commander, 374th Operations Support Squadron, Yokota AB, Japan.
11. June 2019 – June 2021 – Deputy Executive Assistant to the Commander, United States Indo-Pacific Command, Camp Smith, Hawaii.
12. June 2021 – June 2022 – Student, Air War College, Maxwell, AFB, Alabama.
13. June 2022 – present – Commander, 36th Contingency Response Group

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 2019 – June 2021 – Deputy Executive Assistant to the Commander, United States Indo-Pacific Command, Camp Smith, Hawaii, as a lieutenant colonel

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: 3,800

Aircraft Flown: C-130E/H/J, T-1, T-44 and T-37

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf cluster

Air Medal with seven oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf cluster

Joint Service Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster

Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Force Combat Action Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant - May 31, 2000

First Lieutenant - May 31, 2002

Captain - May 31, 2004

Major - March 1, 2010

Lieutenant Colonel - August 1, 2015

Colonel - June 1, 2021

(Current as of June 2022)