



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

MAJOR DANIEL J. MERKH

Maj Daniel J. Merkh is the Commander, of the 36 Security Forces Squadron “Arc Light Defenders”. Major Merkh is leads more than 380 Security Forces personnel and Department of Air Force Police members. The 36 Security Forces Squadron provides world-class security to more than 7,900 military members and their family as well as airtight security for multi-national and joint aircraft executing Combatant Command objectives in the Pacific Theater.

Maj Merkh is a 2010 graduate of Cedarville University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Studies with Highest Honors. He received his commission through Officer Training School in 2011. Maj Merkh has served ten years in various locations including North Dakota, Kuwait, Italy, and Texas. He has held diverse roles including flight commander, section commander, executive officer, and instructor. Prior to his current position, the major was the Operations Officer, 509th Security Forces Squadron, Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri.



EDUCATION

2006 Seminario Biblico Palavra Da Vida, São Paulo, Brazil

2010 Bachelor of Arts in International Studies–Social Science, Summa Cum Laude, Cedarville University, Ohio

2011 Officer Training School, Maxwell Air Force Base (AFB), Ala.

2011 Air and Space Basic Course, Jay Smith Award Winner, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2011 Evasion and Conduct After Capture, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2011 Security Forces Officer Course, Distinguished Graduate, Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) Camp Bullis, Texas

2012 Regional Training Center, Lt Helton Award, Creech AFB, Nev.

2013 Master of Arts in International Relations and Conflict Resolution, American Military University, W.V.

2015 Controlled F.O.R.C.E. Instructor, Aviano Air Base (AB), Italy

2018 Integrated Defense Command and Control Course, JBSA-Lackland AFB, Texas

2018 Security Forces Advanced Course, JBSA-Lackland AFB, Texas

ASSIGNMENTS

1. April 2011–June 2013, Officer in Charge, Logistics and Supply, 319th Security Forces Squadron, Grand Forks AFB, ND (November 2012–May 2013, Flight Commander, 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait)

2. July 2013–June 2014, Flight Commander, 31st Security Forces Squadron, Aviano AB, Italy

3. June 2014–April 2015, Executive Officer, 31st Mission Support Group, Aviano AB, Italy

4. April 2015–May 2016, Officer in Charge, Plans and Programs, 31st Security Forces Squadron, Aviano AB, Italy

5. June 2016–June 2019, Operations Officer, 509th Security Forces Squadron, Whiteman AFB, Mo.

6. July 2019–May 2020, Flight Commander, Military Training Flight, 343d Training Squadron, JBSA-Lackland, Texas

7. June 2020–December 2020, Flight Commander, Camp Bullis Operations, 343d Training Squadron, JBSA-Camp Bullis, Texas

8. January 2021–June 2021, Flight Commander, Security Forces Apprentice Course, 343d Training Squadron, JBSA-

Lackland, Texas

9. June 2021–June 2023, Commander, 423d Security Forces Squadron, RAF Alconbury, United Kingdom

10. June 2023-Present, Commander, 36 Security Forces Squadron, Andersen AFB, GU

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster

Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Force Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with "V" device and three oak leaf clusters

Air Force Recognition Ribbon

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2011 319th Mission Support Group, Company Grade Officer of the Quarter

2012 319th Security Forces Squadron, Company Grade Officer of the Quarter

2012 319th Security Forces Squadron, Company Grade Officer of the Year

2012 Team Grand Forks Air Force Base, Company Grade Officer of the Year

2013 31st Security Forces Squadron, Company Grade Officer of the Quarter

2014 United States Air Forces in Europe, Best Large Security Forces Squadron

2015 31st Security Forces Squadron, Company Grade Officer of the Quarter

2015 31st Security Forces Squadron, Company Grade Officer of the Year

2016 509th Security Forces Squadron, Company Grade Officer of the Year

2016 509th Bomb Wing, Nuclear Deterrence Company Grade Officer of the Year

2016 United States Air Forces in Europe, Best Large Security Forces Squadron

2017 509th Bomb Wing, Company Grade Officer of the Year

2017 Air Force Global Strike Command, Outstanding Large Security Forces Squadron

2017 Air Force, Nuclear Deterrence Company Grade Officer of the Year

2018 Air Force Global Strike Command, Outstanding Large Security Forces Squadron

2018 United States Strategic Command Bomber Wing Omaha Trophy

2019 Air Force Global Strike Command, Outstanding Large Security Forces Squadron

2019 United States Strategic Command Bomber Wing Omaha Trophy

2019 343d Training Squadron, Company Grade Officer of the Quarter

2020 343d Training Squadron, Company Grade Officer of the Year

2020 343d Training Squadron, Field Grade Officer of the Quarter Squadron

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant April 12, 2011

First Lieutenant April 12, 2013

Captain April 12, 2015

Major Oct. 1, 2020

(CURRENT AS JUNE 2023)