



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL SARAH N. BAKHTIARI

Colonel Sarah Nelson Bakhtiari is the Dean of Education at the Air Command and Staff College, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. In this capacity, Col. Bakhtiari provides leadership and strategic guidance to the college's faculty and ensures accomplishment of the Joint Professional Military Education mission. She also serves as the Chief Strategist for Project Everest, a military strategy design and facilitation start-up she co-founded in 2013.

Col. Bakhtiari was commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Notre Dame in 2000, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Russian and English. She earned a doctorate in International Relations from the University of Denver and holds master's degrees in Security Studies, Military Strategy, and Military Operational Art and Science.



Col. Bakhtiari has served in squadron, wing, joint, and national assignments, including deployed service in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Her previous assignment was as Professor of Strategy and Security Studies as Air University's School of Advanced Air and Space Studies.

EDUCATION

- 2000 Bachelor of Arts, Russian and English, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind.
- 2005 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2007 Master of Arts in Security Studies, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
- 2012 Master of Arts in Military Operational Art, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2013 Master of Philosophy in Military Strategy, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2016 Doctor of Philosophy, International Relations, University of Denver, Colo.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. November 2000 – July 2001, Student, Intelligence Officer Course, 315th Training Squadron, Goodfellow AFB, Texas
2. July 2001 – July 2002, Chief, Combat Intelligence Cell, 31st Operations Support Squadron, Aviano Air Base, Italy
3. September 2002 – December 2002, Flight Commander, Intelligence Flight, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, Al Udeid AB, Qatar

4. January 2003 – February 2004, Chief of Squadron Intelligence, 555th Fighter Squadron, Aviano AB, Italy
5. February 2004 – July 2004, Chief of Expeditionary Squadron Intelligence, 555th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, Al Udeid AB, Qatar
6. August 2004 – September 2005, Director, Test and Evaluation, Measurement and Signature Intelligence, Defense Intelligence Agency, Washington, D.C.
7. September 2005 – August 2006, Intelligence Operator, MASINT, Defense Intelligence Agency, Washington, D.C.
8. July 2006 – June 2007, Intelligence Briefer to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Headquarters Air Force, the Pentagon
9. July 2007 – June 2008, Executive Officer, Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, Headquarters Air Force, the Pentagon
10. June 2008 – June 2009, Regional Desk Officer for East Africa, J2, U.S. Africa Command, Stuttgart, Germany
11. July 2009 – April 2010, Director of Operations, Security Cooperation, J2, U.S. Africa Command, Stuttgart, Germany
12. April 2010 – December 2011, Program Manager, Africa Intelligence Training, J2, U.S. Africa Command, Stuttgart, Germany
13. January 2011 – May 2011, J2 Liaison Officer to U.S. Africa Command, U.S. Embassy, Kampala, Uganda
14. June 2011 – May 2012, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
15. June 2012 – June 2013, Student, School of Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
16. July 2013 – September 2016, Student, Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver, Colo.
17. September 2016 – May 2018, Commander, 548th Operations Support Squadron, Beale AFB, Calif.
18. June 2018 – June 2022, Professor of Strategy and Security Studies, SAASS, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
19. July 2022 – present, Dean of Education, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Meritorious Service Medal
 Meritorious Service Medal
 Joint Service Commendation Medal
 Joint Service Achievement Medal
 Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster
 Air Force Achievement Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant	May 2000
First Lieutenant	July 2002
Captain	July 2004
Major	July 2010
Lieutenant Colonel	October 2015
Colonel	November 2021

(Current as of July 2022)