



# BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

## LT COL SARAH N. BAKHTIARI

Lt Col Sarah Nelson Bakhtiari is Assistant Professor of Strategy and Security Studies at the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. Lt Col Bakhtiari teaches international relations, directs a course in applied strategy, and is the Director of Staff for the school.

Lt Col Bakhtiari was commissioned through the 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 (degree conferral pending), and holds Masters degrees in Security Studies, Military Strategy, and Military Operational Art and Science.

Lt Col Bakhtiari has served in squadron, wing, joint, and national assignments, including deployed service in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. Her primary assignments included Commander, 548<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron at Beale AFB; Chief, Squadron Intelligence at the 555<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron at Aviano Air Base; Intelligence Flight Commander, 379<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing at Al Udeid Air Base; Director, Operational Test and Evaluation for MASINT, Defense Intelligence Agency; Intelligence Briefer to the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Headquarters Air Force; Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance, Headquarters Air Force; Program Manager, African Intelligence Training, U.S. Africa Command, Kelley Barracks; Africa Command J2 Liaison Officer, U.S. Embassy, Kampala.



## EDUCATION

- 2000 Bachelor of Arts, Russian and English, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN
- 2005 Squadron Officer School, In-Residence, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2007 Master of Arts in Security Studies, Georgetown University, Washington DC
- 2012 Master of Arts in Military Operational Art, Air Command and Staff College, In-Residence, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2013 Master of Philosophy in Military Strategy, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2016 Doctor of Philosophy, International Relations, University of Denver (conferral pending)

## ASSIGNMENTS

1. Nov 2000 – Jul 2001 Student, Intelligence Officer Course, 315 TRS, Goodfellow AFB
2. Jul 2001 – Jul 2002 Chief, Combat Intelligence Cell, 31 OSS, Aviano AB

3. Sep 2002 – Dec 2002 Flight Commander, Intelligence Flight, 379 AEW, AI Udeid AB
4. Jan 2003 – Feb 2004 Chief of Squadron Intelligence, 555 FS, Aviano AB
5. Feb 2004 – Jul 2004 Chief of Expeditionary Squadron Intelligence, 555 EFS, AI Udeid AB
6. Aug 2004 – Sep 2005 Director, Test and Evaluation, MASINT, Defense Intelligence Agency
7. Sep 2005 – Aug 2006 Intelligence Operator, MASINT, Defense Intelligence Agency
8. Jul 2006 – Jun 2007 Intelligence Briefer to the CSAF, Headquarters Air Force, Pentagon
9. Jul 2007 – Jun 2008 Executive Officer, Deputy Chief of Staff for ISR, Headquarters Air Force
10. Jun 2008 – Jun 2009 Regional Desk Officer for East Africa, J2, U.S. Africa Command
11. Jul 2009 – Apr 2010 Director of Operations, Security Cooperation, J2, U.S. Africa Command
12. Apr 2010 – Dec 2011 Program Manager, Africa Intelligence Training, J2, U.S. Africa Command
13. Jan 2011 – May 2011 J2 Liaison Officer to U.S. Africa Command, U.S. Embassy, Kampala
14. Jun 2011 – May 2012 Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB
15. Jun 2012 – Jun 2013 Student, School of Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB
16. Jul 2013 – Sep 2016 Student, Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver
17. Sep 2016 – May 2018 Commander, 548th Operations Support Squadron, Beale AFB, CA
18. Jun 2018 – Present Professor of Strategy and Security Studies, SAASS, Maxwell AFB, AL

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Defense Meritorious Service Medal  
Meritorious Service Medal  
Joint Service Commendation Medal  
Joint Service Achievement Medal  
Air Force Commendation Medal with one 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

**(Current as of Jan 2019)**