



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

LIEUTENANT GENERAL TONY D. BAUERNFEIND

Lt. Gen. Tony D. Bauernfeind is the 22nd Superintendent, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado. He directs a 47-month program of military education and leadership development that produces leaders of character immediately ready to lead in the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force. The Superintendent leads a staff of more than 3,500 military and civilian Airmen and Guardians. The Academy leader development experience incorporates military training, academics, athletics, and aviation, cyber and space programs to produce warfighters to win in the 21st Century.

Lt. Gen. Bauernfeind earned his commission from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1991. Earning his wings in 1992, he has flown more than 3,500 hours in the MC-130E, MC-130H, MC-130J and MQ-9 aircraft. He has commanded special operations forces at the squadron, group, wing, theater special operations command and major command levels.

Prior to his current assignment, Lt. Gen. Bauernfeind served as the Commander, Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field, Florida.

EDUCATION

1991 Distinguished Graduate, Bachelor of Science, Chemistry, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.

1992 Distinguished Graduate, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

1997 Distinguished Graduate, Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2000 Master of Business Administration, Auburn University, Ala.

2004 Distinguished Graduate, Master of Military Operational Art and Science, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2005 Master of Airpower Art and Science, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2006 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence

2009 Military Fellow, RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, Calif.

2010 Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.

2010 Center for Creative Leadership, Greensboro, N.C.

2013 Combined Forces Special Operation Component Commander Course, MacDill AFB, Fla.

2020 Joint Flag Officer Warfighting Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. July 1991–August 1992, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

2. September 1992–July 1993, MC-130E Initial Mission Qualification, Little Rock AFB, Ark. and Hurlburt Field, Fla.

3. July 1993–January 1997, MC-130E Aircraft Commander and MC-130H Instructor Pilot, 1st Special Operations Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan

4. January 1997–January 1998, MC-130H Instructor Pilot, 550th Special Operations Squadron, Kirtland AFB, N.M.

5. January–August 1998, Student F-15 Pilot, 2nd Fighter Squadron, Tyndall AFB, Fla.

6. August 1998–September 2001, MC-130H Instructor Pilot, Standards and Evaluations Pilot and Assistant Director of Operations, 15th Special Operations Squadron and Wing Executive Officer, 16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

7. September 2001–June 2003, Chief, Special Operations Forces/Combat Search and Rescue Branch, Global Mobility/Special Operations Capability Requirements Division, Deputy Chief of Staff for Air and Space Operations, Headquarters Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.

8. July 2003–July 2004, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

9. July 2004–June 2005, Student, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

10. June–October 2005, Chief Special Warfare Division, Headquarters Air Force Doctrine Center, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

11. November 2005–January 2006, MC-130H Recalibration Training, Kirtland AFB, N.M.

12. January 2006–May 2008, Operations Officer, then Commander, 15th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

13. June 2008–June 2009, Military Fellow, RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, Calif.



EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant

May 29, 1991



First Lieutenant

May 29, 1993



Captain

May 29, 1995



Major

March 01, 2002



Lieutenant Colonel

March 01, 2006



Colonel

October 01, 2009



Brigadier General

August 02, 2015



Major General

August 01, 2018



Lieutenant General

July 31, 2020



14. June 2009– June 2011, Director of Staff and Special Assistant to the Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects, Arlington, Va.
15. June 2011–June 2013, Commander, 1st Special Operations Group, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
16. July 2013–February 2015, Commander, 27th Special Operations Wing, Cannon AFB, N.M.
17. May 2015–April 2016, Deputy Commanding General-Operations, NATO Special Operations Component Command/Special Operations Joint Task Force-Afghanistan, Kabul, Afghanistan
18. April 2016–June 2019, Commanding General, Special Operations Command Korea, South Korea
19. July 2019–July 2020, Chief of Staff, United States Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, Fla.
20. August 2020–December 2022, Vice Commander, United States Special Operations Command, Washington, D.C.
21. December 2022–July 2024, Commander, Headquarters AFSOC, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
22. August 2024–present, Superintendent, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. August–December 2006, Commander, Combined Joint Special Operations Air Detachment, Afghanistan, as a lieutenant colonel
2. May–September 2007, Deputy Commander, Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component, Iraq/Afghanistan, as a lieutenant colonel
3. June 2009–June 2011, Director of Staff and Special Assistant to the Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Arlington, Va., as a colonel
4. May 2012–January 2013, Commander, Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component, Afghanistan, as a colonel
5. May 2015–April 2016, Deputy Commanding General-Operations, NATO Special Operations Component Command/Special Operations Joint Task Force, Kabul, Afghanistan, as a brigadier general
6. April 2016–June 2019, Commanding General, Special Operations Command Korea, South Korea, as a brigadier general and major general
7. July 2019–July 2020, Chief of Staff, United States Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., as a major general
8. August 2020–December 2022, Vice Commander, United States Special Operations Command, Washington, D.C., as a lieutenant general

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: command pilot

Flight hours: more than 3,500

Aircraft flown: MC-130H, MC-130E, MC-130J, C-130E, AC-130H/U, CV-22, U-28, C-146, PC-12, UH-1N and MQ-9

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Distinguished Service Medal

Distinguished Service Medal

Defense Superior Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster

Bronze Star Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with oak leaf cluster

Aerial Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster

(Current as of February 2025)

