



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL NICHOLAS J. MERCURIO

Lt. Col. Nicholas J. Mercurio is the commander, 11th Security Forces Squadron, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, D.C. In this role, he leads more than 200 elite Defenders providing mission critical airbase ground defense and full spectrum Law Enforcement and Security Operations to the 11th Wing and its 74 mission partners. As the Defense Force Commander, he serves as the enterprise lead for Integrated Defense and directs all assigned and activated ID forces for the installation while also serving as the 11th Wing Antiterrorism Officer.



Lt. Col. Mercurio entered the Air Force in 2008 as a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, Colo. He has held positions at the squadron, wing, Numbered Air Force, and Headquarters Air Force levels. Prior to taking command he served as Commander, 316th Security Support Squadron, Joint Base Andrews, Md.

EDUCATION

- 2008 Bachelor of Science in English, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- 2009 Honor Graduate, Public Affairs Qualification Course, Ft. Meade, Md.
- 2012 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 2018 Master of Military Operational Art and Science, Air Command and Staff College Online Master's Program, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2018 Master of Communication, George Mason University, Fairfax, Va.
- 2020 Distinguished Graduate with Highest Academic Distinction, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 2008 – September 2009, Public Affairs Officer, 22nd Air Refueling Wing, McConnell AFB, Kan.
2. September 2009 – September 2011, Deputy Chief of Public Affairs, 22nd Air Refueling Wing, McConnell AFB, Kan. (July 2010 – July 2011, Director of Public Affairs, Provincial Reconstruction Team Kunar, Task Force Bastogne, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division)

3. September 2011 – October 2013, Combat Photography Flight Commander, 1st Combat Camera Squadron, Joint Base Charleston, S.C.
4. October 2013 – September 2014, Combat Broadcast Flight Commander, 1st Combat Camera Squadron, Joint Base Charleston, S.C.
5. September 2014 – July 2017, Director, 14th Air Force (Air Forces Strategic) and Joint Functional Component Command for Space Public Affairs, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
6. July 2017 – December 2018, Student, George Mason University, Fairfax, Va.
7. December 2018 – July 2019, Press Desk Officer, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs, Headquarters Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
8. July 2019 – June 2020, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
9. June 2020 – June 2022, Public Affairs Advisor to the Chief of Space Operations, Headquarters United States Space Force, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
10. June 2022 – June 2023, Commander, 316th Security Support Squadron, Joint Base Andrews, Md.
11. June 2023 – present, Commander, 11th Security Forces Squadron, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, D.C.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Bronze Star Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air and Space Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Joint Service Achievement Medal

Air and Space Achievement Medal with Valor and two oak leaf clusters

Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Navy Achievement Medal with one gold star

Air Force Combat Action Medal

Army Combat Action Badge

Armed Forces Service Medal

National Defense Service Medal

Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one bronze star

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Nuclear Deterrence Operations

Service Medal NATO Medal

Air and Space Recognition Ribbon

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2009 Outstanding New Print Journalist, Air Mobility Command

2015 & 2016 Capt. Bradley R. Schuldt Outstanding Communication Company Grade Officer, Air Force Space Command

2017 Air Force Association Gill Robb Wilson Award, Air Force Space Command

2018 Lt. Col. William Schroeder Memorial Award for Excellence in Strategic Communication, George Mason University

2020 Human Capital Innovation Award, Air Command and Staff College

2020 Commandant's Award for Academic Achievement, Air Command and Staff College

2021 Special Military Assistant to the 59th Presidential Inauguration

2021 Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Field Grade Officer of the Year

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society

PUBLICATIONS

"Lucky" – *War, Literature and the Arts: An International Journal of the Humanities*, Oct. 2014

"Applying Lessons from Climate Change Communication in Counter-ISIS Strategic Communication" – *Small Wars Journal*, October 2018

"Beyond 'thank you': recommended modalities for meaningful civilian-military discourse" – *Journal of Veterans Studies*, March 2019

"Techno-Fetishism and Meta-Rhetoric: Assessing the Nature and Character of Past and Future Warfare" – *Wild Blue Yonder*, January 2020

"The Interminable Crusade: A New Framework for US Counterterrorism Strategy" – *Wild Blue Yonder*, April 2020

"Reframing Air Force Suicide Prevention: A Human Capital Strategy to Normalize Help-seeking Behaviors" – *Air and Space Power Journal*, April 2021

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

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| Second Lieutenant | May 2008 |
| First Lieutenant | May 2010 |
| Captain | May 2012 |
| Major | January 2018 |
| Lieutenant Colonel | February 2023 |

(Current as of June 2023)