



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL CLARENCE E. BURTON, JR.

Lieutenant Colonel Burton is the Director of Procurement for the United States Special Operations Command. In this role, he oversees a \$5 billion annual obligation to rapidly deliver cutting edge technologies, equipment, and services to 73,000 Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, and civilian Special Operations Forces personnel. He leads over 350 contracting professionals, establishes policies, and ensures effective contract execution and compliance across 33 worldwide locations.



Lieutenant Colonel Burton entered the Air Force in 2003 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at The Citadel, Charleston, S.C. He is a joint qualified officer and has served as a two-time squadron commander, and a contracting officer for the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex and Special Operations Command Europe. His career also includes a broadening assignment as a Program Element Monitor in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics' Global Power Programs Directorate. In this role, Lieutenant Colonel Burton directed acquisition planning, programming, budgeting, and execution for the \$13 billion F-15C, F-15E, and F-15EX investment portfolios. In 2007, Lieutenant Colonel Burton deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan as a Contingency Contracting Officer in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.

Prior to his current assignment, Lieutenant Colonel Burton was a military student assigned to the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy at the National Defense University in Washington D.C.

EDUCATION

2003 Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration, The Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina
2004 Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
2008 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
2011 Master of Science, Procurement and Acquisitions Management, Webster University, St. Louis, Missouri
2013 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
2015 Strategic Policy Fellowship (Intermediate Developmental Education), Washington, D.C.
2015 Joint Forces Staff College, JPME Phase II, Norfolk, Virginia
2023 Distinguished Graduate, Master of Science, National Resource Strategy, Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, National Defense University, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.

2023 Senior Acquisition Course, Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, National Defense University, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 2003 – June 2006, Air Combat Command Aircrew Training Contracts Manager, ACC Contracting Squadron, Langley AFB, Virginia
2. June 2006 – June 2008, Automatic Test Equipment Contracts Manager, 742nd Automatic Test Sustainment Group, Robins AFB, Georgia
3. June 2008 – August 2009, Contracting Officer and Branch Chief, 542nd Combat Sustainment Group (Electronic Warfare), Robins AFB, Georgia
4. August 2009 – June 2010, Education with Industry, Northrop Grumman, Electronic Systems, Air Force Institute of Technology, Linthicum, Maryland
5. June 2010 – July 2011, Executive Officer, Program Executive Officer for Combat and Mission Support, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Washington, D.C.
6. July 2011 – June 2014, Commander, 14th Contracting Squadron, Columbus AFB, Mississippi
7. June 2014 – September 2015, Air Force Strategic Policy Fellow (Intermediate Developmental Education), Washington D.C.
8. September 2015 – August 2017, Chief, Contract Plans, Special Operations Command Europe, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany
9. August 2017 – July 2019, Commander, 700th Contracting Squadron, Kapaun Air Station, Kaiserslautern, Germany
10. July 2019 – May 2020, F-15 Program Element Monitor, Global Power Programs, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, the Pentagon, Washington D.C.
11. May 2020 – July 2021, Deputy Chief, Global Dominance Division, Global Power Programs, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, the Pentagon, Washington D.C.
12. July 2021 – July 2022, Military Assistant to the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, the Pentagon, Washington D.C.
13. July 2022 – June 2023, Student, Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, National Defense University, Washington D.C.
14. June 2023 - present, Director of Procurement, HQ USSOCOM, MacDill AFB, Florida

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. September 2015 – August 2017, Chief, Contract Plans, J-4 Logistics Division, Special Operations Command Europe, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany, as a major

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters
Joint Service Commendation Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal
Air Force Achievement Medal
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
National Defense Service Medal

Afghanistan Campaign Medal
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 9, 2003

First Lieutenant May 28, 2005

Captain May 28, 2007

Major October 1, 2013

Lieutenant Colonel May 1, 2018

(Current as of February 2024)