



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL JOHN J. O'CONNOR

Colonel John J. O'Connor is the Director, Force Protection, U.S. Air Forces Central Command (USAFCENT), Southwest Asia. He is responsible for directing the development and implementation of force protection (FP) programs, policies and procedures for combat operations for forces spanning 27 countries in Southwest Asia. He has functional oversight for 8,000 Security Forces (SF) personnel on 19 bases in 11 countries protecting over \$20 billion in combat aircraft and USAF resources. Colonel O'Connor oversees the Integrated Defense of USAFCENT bases, leveraging Joint/Coalition and interagency capabilities and effects. He leads a 22-person AF staff, 65 contractors and 21 linguists in FP operations, intelligence and resources for full-spectrum operations.



Colonel O'Connor graduated from West Springfield High School in Springfield, Virginia in 1987, and received a bachelor's degree from West Virginia University in 1991, where he was commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Course. Colonel O'Connor began his career as a Security Police Officer at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota. His Security Forces career includes base assignments as a Missile Security Flight Leader, Shift Commander, OIC Training and Resources, Operations Officer, a Joint billet as the US European Command, an assignment to USAF Headquarters, and as a commander for four Security Forces Squadrons. Furthermore, Colonel O'Connor has served as Chief, Security Forces during three deployments supporting several Operations including SUPPORT JUSTICE IV, DENY FLIGHT, JOINT ENDEAVOR and IRAQI FREEDOM.

He is married to the former Christina Hart and has three children: Christopher, Sean and Sarah.

EDUCATION

1991 Bachelor of Arts Degree in History, West Virginia University
1996 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama
1998 Master of Science Degree in Criminology & Criminal Justice, Florida State University
2005 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama
2007 Air War College, by correspondence

ASSIGNMENTS

1. September 1991 - October 1992, Flight Leader, 91st Missile Security Squadron, Minot AFB, ND
2. October 1992 - July 1994, Shift Commander, then, OIC Training and Resources Flight, 5th Security Police Squadron, Minot AFB, ND
3. July 1994 - July 1996, Shift Commander, 48th Security Police Squadron, RAF Lakenheath, England
4. August 1996 - February 1997, Operations Officer, 64th Security Police Squadron, Reese AFB, TX
5. February 1997 - August 1997, Commander, 64th Security Police Squadron, Reese AFB, TX
6. August 1997 - December 1998, Student, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL
7. January 1999 - July 2001, Operations Officer, 305th Security Forces Squadron, McGuire AFB, NJ
8. July 2001 - July 2003, Commander, 311th Security Forces Squadron, Brooks City-Base, TX

9. August 2003 - July 2005, Commander, 569th U.S. Forces Police Squadron, Vogelweh, Germany
10. August 2005 - June 2006, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
11. June 2006 - June 2009, Nuclear Surety Officer, U.S. European Command, Stuttgart, Germany
12. June 2009 - June 2010, Commander, 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, Ali Al Salem AB, Kuwait
13. June 2010 - August 2012, Deputy Chief, Nuclear Operations Division, AF/A10, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, the Pentagon, Washington DC
14. August 2012 - June 2014, Senior Analyst, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy, the Pentagon, Washington DC
15. June 2014 - present, Director of Force Protection, U.S. Air Forces Central Command, Southwest Asia

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster
Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters
Air Force Achievement Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant - 21 July 1991
First Lieutenant - 21 July 1993
Captain - 21 July 1995
Major - 1 June 2002
Lieutenant Colonel - 1 May 2007
Colonel - 1 February 2013

(Current as of May 2015)