



## COLONEL RYAN J. MCCAUGHAN

Colonel Ryan J. McCaughan is the Deputy Commandant at Officer Training School, Maxwell AFB, Alabama. He directly supports the Commandant to commission and train approximately 3,700 total force line and non-line officers annually for the Air Force's Active Duty, Reserves, Air National Guard, and Space Force with a \$75 million worldclass campus, including three field training sites, and the largest training campus within Maxwell Air Force Base.

Colonel McCaughan earned his commission through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program at St. Joseph's University while attending Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 2005. He is a C-130E/H Combat Systems Officer and Africa Foreign Area Officer and has previously served as a staff officer at the Combatant Command and Air Staff levels. Prior to his current assignment, Colonel McCaughan was the Air University Director of Staff.

Colonel McCaughan is a Command Navigator with more than 2,000 flying hours, including 1,000 combat hours. He has deployed numerous times to Afghanistan, Iraq, and across the African continent. He completed his Command tour at the squadron level as an Air Advisor in the 818 Mobility Support Advisory Squadron, Contingency Response Wing, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey.



### EDUCATION

2005 Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pa.  
2010 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.  
2011 Master of Science in Space Studies, American Military University, Charles Town, W.Va.  
2014 Master of Arts in International Relations, University of Oklahoma, Norman  
2015 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence  
2019 Master of Military Operational Art and Science, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.  
2021 Air War College, by correspondence  
2025 Master of Strategic Studies, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

### ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 2005 – October 2006, Student, Undergraduate Navigator Training, Randolph AFB, Texas.
2. October 2006 – June 2007, Student, C-130E/H Initial/Mission Qualification Training, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
3. June 2007 – June 2008, Flight Safety Officer, C-130E/H Navigator, 61 Airlift Squadron, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
4. June 2008 – June 2010, C-130E/H Instructor and Chief of Scheduling, 61 Airlift Squadron, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
5. June 2010 – June 2011, Deputy Chief of Standards and Evaluations and C-130E/H Instructor/Evaluator Navigator, 61 Airlift Squadron, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
6. June 2011 – October 2012, Combat Aviation Advisor and C-130E Instructor Navigator, 6 Special Operation Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
7. October 2012 – August 2013, Assistant Flight Commander and C-130H Instructor/Evaluator Navigator, 50 Airlift Squadron, Little Rock AFB, Ark.





8. August 2013 – September 2014, Flight Commander and C-130H Instructor/Evaluator Navigator, 50 Airlift Squadron, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
9. September 2014 – August 2015, Executive Officer and C-130H Instructor Navigator, 913 Airlift Group, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
10. August 2015 – April 2016, Assistant Director of Operations, C-130H Instructor Navigator 50 Airlift Squadron, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
11. April 2016 – July 2018, Chief of Security Cooperation, Africa Command J5, US Embassy Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
12. July 2018 – June 2019, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
13. June 2019 – June 2021, Director of Operations, 818 Mobility Support Advisory Squadron, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.
14. June 2021 – June 2023, Commander, 818 Mobility Support Advisory Squadron, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.
15. June 2023 – July 2024, Deputy Division Chief / Air Advisor Branch Chief, HAF A3T Pentagon, Washington D.C.
16. June 2023 – June 2024, Student, Grand Strategy, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
17. June 2024 – June 2025, Director of Staff, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
18. June 2025 – Present, Deputy Commandant, Officer Training School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

## SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

April 2016 – July 2018, Chief of Security Cooperation, US Africa Command J5, US Embassy Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Master Combat Systems Officer

Flight Hours: More than 2,000, including 1,000 combat hours

Aircraft: T-43, UH-1, C-130E/H, C-208B

## MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Meritorious Serve Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with seven oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal

Afghanistan Campaign Medal

Iraq Campaign Medal

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal

## OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Air Command and Staff College Exceptional Research Award (2019)

Air War College Joint Airpower Award (2025)

## EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Second Lieutenant  | June 10, 2005    |
| First Lieutenant   | June 1, 2007     |
| Captain            | June 1, 2009     |
| Major              | December 1, 2015 |
| Lieutenant Colonel | June 1, 2020     |
| Colonel            | May 1, 2026      |

(Current as of June 2026)

