



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

BRIGADIER GENERAL TARA. D. MCKENNIE

Brigadier General Tara D. McKennie is the Assistant Adjutant General-Air and Air Component Commander, Joint Force Headquarters, Montgomery, Alabama. In this position, she commands all units of the Alabama Air National Guard, and serves as the key advisor to the Adjutant General of Alabama on all matters relating to the air mission.

Brig Gen McKennie, a Chicago, Illinois native, graduated from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science degree in both Radiologic Science and Health Care Management. She also earned a Masters of Business Administration in 2009 from Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky.

Brig Gen McKennie enlisted in the Air Force in 1989 as an airman basic, and served six years on active duty. Having earned a commission as a Second Lieutenant through the Army's Officer Candidate School in 1999, Brig Gen McKennie was assigned as a Platoon Leader to the 133d Signal Battalion. She transferred to the Air National Guard in 2002 in the Medical Service Corps and has served in several administrative leadership capacities since that time.

Brig Gen McKennie transferred to the 187th Fighter Wing, Alabama Air National Guard in December 2015 where she became the commander of the 187th Medical Group, located at Montgomery Regional (Dannelly Field). Brig Gen McKennie was directly responsible for training, budgeting, and the deployment readiness of all personnel in the wing, and its geographically separated units.

Brig Gen McKennie has spent her entire professional career in health care operations focusing on optimization theory, implementation of management processes and developing and leading people. She is presently, Vice President of Culture and Leadership Development for a national physician practice, supporting and leading operations for 5000+ employees. She also serves on the Board of Directors, Tampa Crossroads.

EDUCATION

1997 Associate Applied Science of Radiologic Science

1998 Bachelor of Science of Health Care Administration, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill

2009 Master of Business Administration, Bellarmine University, Louisville, Ky

2015 Master of Strategic Studies, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Air Force Commendation Medal

Air Force Outstanding Unit Ribbon with three oak leaf clusters National Defense Service Medal Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Air Force Good Conduct Medal

Air Force Long Tour Overseas Ribbon

Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon

Air Force Training Ribbon



ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 2001 - January 2007, Health Services Administrative Officer, 182nd Airlift Wing, Peoria, Ill.
2. February 2007 - November 2015, Medical Group Deputy Commander, 123rd Airlift Wing, Louisville, Ky.
3. December 2015 - May 2020, Medical Group Commander, 187th Fighter Wing, Montgomery, Ala.
4. May 2021 - Present, Assistant Adjutant General, JFHQ-Air AL, Montgomery, Ala

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant August 29, 1999

First Lieutenant August 29, 2001

Captain September 27, 2003

Major February 22, 2008

Lieutenant Colonel March 29, 2012

Colonel September 15, 2016

Brigadier General May 2, 2021

(Current as of Feb 2022)

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