



# BIOGRAPHY

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### COLONEL JENNIFER A. B. CARNS

Colonel Jennifer Ann Branigan Carns is the Commander of the 5th Combat Communications Group at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. The 5th MOB is the last remaining active duty combat communications group. The group of over 700 Airmen, Civilians, and one United Kingdom officer from over twenty career fields is comprised of a combat communications support squadron, two combat communications mission squadrons and an engineering installation squadron. She directs the training, mobilization, and deployment of multi-capable personnel, computers, radios, transport systems, specialized engineering services and supporting equipment to enable wartime and peacetime operations for combatant commanders, joint task forces, and Air Force components and Department of Defense Agencies. These missions also include direct support taskings for the United States Northern Command and the United States Secret Service.



Colonel Carns entered into the Air Force through the University of Florida's Air Force ROTC program. She has served in a variety of assignments and

deployed multiple times in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. Her command experience includes the 85th Engineering Installation Squadron, 65th Communications Squadron and the 609th Air Communications Squadron's Detachment 4. Prior to her current assignment, she was the Future Operations Division Chief at Joint Force Headquarters – Department of Defense Information Network.

### EDUCATION

- 2000 Bachelor of Science, Decision and Information Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.
- 2000 Master of Science, Decision and Information Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.
- 2001 Basic Communications Officer Training, Keesler Air Force Base (AFB), Miss.
- 2002 Aerospace Basic Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2005 Squadron Officer School (in residence), Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2010 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2013 Master of Military Operational Art and Science, Air Command & Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2017 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2022 National Security Affairs Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, Calif.
- 2024 Fellow, Seminar XXI, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. February 2001 - July 2003, Network Flight Operations Officer/Squadron Operations Officer/Officer in Charge, Theater Deployable Communications/Crew Commander, Communications Control Center, Langley AFB, Va. (September 2002 – December 2002, Network Services Flight Commander, Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates)
2. July 2003 - July 2004, Executive Officer, 1st Mission Support Group, Langley AFB, Va.
3. July 2004 - July 2007, Chief, Southwest Asia Communications Requirements; Chief, Southwest Asia Project Integration Element, 609th Air Communications Squadron, Shaw AFB, S.C. (July 2005 – August 2005, Technical Control Facility Project Officer, Al Dhafra AB, United Arab Emirates; May 2006 – September 2006, Air Force Forces Communications Theater Infrastructure Project Manager and Executive Officer, Al Udeid AB, Qatar)
4. July 2007 - July 2008, Commander, Detachment 4, Headquarters 9th Air Force, NSA Bahrain, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
5. August 2008 - March 2010, Chief, C4 Requirements Planning and Chief, Communications Integration Planning, Headquarters U.S. European Command, Patch Barracks, Germany
6. July 2010 – July 2012, Deputy Director/Director, Support Directorate, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.
7. July 2012 – June 2013, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
8. June 2013 – June 2015, Commander, 65th Communications Squadron, Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal
9. July 2015 – July 2017, Chief, Enterprise Capabilities Branch/Senior Executive Officer, Office of Information Dominance and Chief Information Officer, Headquarters United States Air Force, Arlington, Va.
10. July 2017 – June 2019, Commander, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron, Keesler AFB, Miss.
11. June 2019 – June 2021, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Headquarters United States Air Force, Arlington, Va.
12. July 2021 – June 2022, National Security Affairs Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, Calif.
13. July 2022 – June 2024, Chief, Future Operations Division, Joint Force Headquarters-Department of Defense Information Network, Fort George G. Meade, Md.
14. July 2024 – present, Commander, 5th Combat Communications Group, Robins AFB, Ga.

## **SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS**

1. July 2022 – June 2024, Chief, Future Operations Division, Joint Force Headquarters-Department of Defense Information Network, Fort George G. Meade, Md., as a colonel

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Meritorious Service Medal (Six Oak Leaf Clusters)  
Joint Service Commendation Medal  
Air Force Commendation Medal (Two Oak Leaf Clusters)  
Air Force Achievement Medal

## **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant	December 15, 2000
First Lieutenant	January 13, 2003
Captain	January 13, 2005
Major	October 1, 2010
Lieutenant Colonel	March 1, 2016
Colonel	April 1, 2022

(Current as of July 2024)