



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL PATRICK S. RYDER

Colonel Patrick S. Ryder is Special Assistant to the Director of Public Affairs, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Colonel Ryder was commissioned in 1992 through the Air Force ROTC program at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. He has served in wing, major command, Air Staff, combatant command, Joint Staff and Office of the Secretary of Defense positions. Prior to his current assignment, Colonel Ryder served as the Special Assistant for Public Affairs to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from October 2017 - October 2019. Among his many assignments, he served as the U.S. Central Command Director of Public Affairs from July 2013-July 2016 where he was responsible for coordinating communication across the combatant command's 20-nation area of responsibility and aligning strategic communication and media relation activities, to include extensive social media programs in seven languages. Colonel Ryder deployed to Islamabad, Pakistan, in October 2009 for one year to serve as the public affairs director for the U.S. Office of the Defense Representative-Pakistan at the U.S. Embassy in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Other deployments include support for Operation IRAQI FREEDOM in Baghdad, Iraq, from March – July 2004 where he served as a strategic communications planner for the Coalition Provisional Authority's Strategic Communications Division.



EDUCATION:

- 1992 Bachelor of Science in Advertising, University of Florida, Fla.
- 1999 Squadron Officer's School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 1999 Master of Arts in Public Administration, Bowie State University, Md.
- 2002 Language Area Studies & Immersion Program, German, University of Salzburg, Austria
- 2004 Air Command & Staff College (In Correspondence), Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2006 Master of Science in Strategic Intelligence, Joint Military Intelligence College, Defense Intelligence Agency, Bolling AFB, Washington D.C.
- 2008 Air War College (In Correspondence), Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2013 Master of Science in National Resource Strategy, Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, National Defense University, Ft. McNair, Washington D.C.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Jan 1993 – Aug 1994 Deputy Chief, Public Affairs, 81st Training Wing, Keesler AFB, Miss.
2. Aug 1994 – Jun 1996 Deputy Chief, Public Affairs, 39th Wing, Incirlik Air Base, Turkey
3. Jun 1996 – Jun 1999 Chief, Public Affairs, 48th Fighter Wing, RAF Lakenheath, UK
4. Jun 1999 - Jul 2001 Chief, Readiness & Evaluation, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs, Resources & Readiness Division, Pentagon, Washington D.C.
5. Jul 2001 – Jun 2002 Executive Officer to the Director, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs, Pentagon, Washington D.C.
6. Jun 2002 – Jun 2003 Chief, Plans & Readiness Division, U.S. Air Forces in Europe Public Affairs, Ramstein AB, Germany
7. Jun 2003 – Jul 2005 Chief, Operations Division, U.S. Air Forces in Europe Public Affairs, Ramstein AB, Germany
8. Aug 2005 – Aug 2006 Graduate/IDE Student, Joint Military Intelligence College, Defense Intelligence Agency, Bolling AFB, Washington D.C
9. Aug 2006 – Sep 2009 Press Officer, Defense Press Operations, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, Pentagon, Washington D.C.
10. Oct 2009 – Oct 2010 Director, Public Affairs, Office of Defense Representative-Pakistan, Islamabad, Pakistan
11. Nov 2010 – Jul 2012 Strategic Communication Advisor to the Secretary of the Air Force, Headquarters Air Force, Pentagon, Washington D.C.
12. Aug 2012 – Jun 2013 Student, Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, National Defense University, Ft. McNair, Washington D.C.
13. Jul 2013 – Jul 2016 Director of Public Affairs, and Deputy Director, Communication Integration, U.S. Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.
14. Jul 2016 – Sep 2017 Chief, Air Force Media Operations Division, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs, Pentagon, Washington D.C.
15. Oct 2017 – Oct 2019 Special Assistant for Public Affairs to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Pentagon, Washington D.C.
16. Oct 2019 – Current Special Assistant to the Director of Air Force Public Affairs, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs, Pentagon, Washington D.C.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

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

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant	2 May	1992
First Lieutenant	8 Sep	1994
Captain	8 Sep	1996
Major	1 Mar	2003
Lieutenant Colonel	1 Mar	2008
Colonel	1 Jun	2014

(Current a/o 28 Oct 19)