

COLONEL (retired) MICHAEL J. MCDONALD

Home email: viperswimmer@yahoo.com

Home Cell: (406) 781-7121

27111 Boerne Forest

Boerne TX 78006

Career Experience: United States Air Force (USAF) and Air National Guard (ANG) Officer

- 08/10 – 01/12 ANG Advisor to HAF A3/5, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans, and Requirements, Headquarters Air Force, Pentagon, VA. Advised a Lt General and his Staff on ANG equities and potential flashpoints within A3/5 corporate decisions. Facilitated communication channels ensuring Total Force coordination between affected AF component and National Guard Bureau functionaries. Critical member of an Integrated Process Team (IPT) tackling rated force management issues by fundamentally revamping traditional AF/ANG working relationships. Lt Gen Carlisle: "Mike is a leader's ldr and key to the success of the A3/5 Team! Top 1% of Cols in my 33 years – needs a bigger stage!"
- 07/09 – 08/10 Commander, Air National Guard Readiness Center, Andrews AFB, MD. Led the 1200+ fulltime NGB Air Staff that designed strategies, developed plans, and provided policies affecting more than 106,000 Guardsmen in 89 flying wings. Chaired ANG Financial Management Board (FMB) process balancing readiness, personnel, and operational requirements in an extremely fiscally challenging and dynamic environment – allocated and executed ANG's \$8.9B annual budget. Provided perspective to Field commanders on national level operational and future mission challenges, bounding their initiatives within fiscal constraints and AF requirements. Stood up a Suicide Integrated Process Team unifying disparate ANG Surgeon General, Chaplain, and Safety programs for prevention, early detection, and post-trauma assistance when needed. Lt Gen Wyatt, Director of the ANG wrote, "Head and shoulders above the rest! My #1 of 144 Colonels! Mike is a true leader."
- 06/07 – 07/09 Wing Commander, 120 Fighter Wing (ANG), Great Falls IAP, MT. Provided leadership and management of a 900+ person F16C+ Fighter Wing, ensuring all required resources were on-hand to train and equip Wing deployment packages for mobilization and deployment in both Federal and State missions. Overall responsible for determining Wing Goals, long- and short-range strategic planning, and current year program execution. Maintained accountability of aircraft, equipment, and other assets valued at nearly \$750M. Aggressively pursued communication opportunities with a monthly CCTV broadcast, the national award winning Big Sky Flyer, and regular Town Hall meetings to re-instill unit pride and cohesion. Brig Gen Walsh, the Adjutant General of MT: "An exceptional leader, officer, and staff member today and in the future; in the top 1 percent of MTNG officers!" Ended accident free AF/ANG flying career – 28 years and over 4400 hours of F16 flying.
- 03/04 – 06/07 Vice Wing Commander, 120 Fighter Wing. Responsible for development of Internal Management Controls, AF and MT State Internal Review Audits, and Exercise and Evaluation Team activities. Chaired the Wing FMB distributing initial annual discretionary funds, making mid-year adjustments, and maximizing end of year fallout opportunities against unfunded requirements. Led Wing and State efforts with MT

Congressional Delegations to turn around initial DoD Base Realignment and Closure 2005 decisions – went from an “enclaved Wing” with no flying mission to transitioning from the F16 to the F15. Developed Wing policies ensuring equitable treatment across the Wing’s Groups for credit card abuse, fitness, training, and work day utilization. Initiated and successfully concluded a \$10M Congressional add for the ANG LITENING Pod Fleet increasing precision combat delivery capability downrange to support the war-fighter on the ground.

- 10/01 – 03/04 Operations Group Commander, 120 Fighter Wing. Responsible for development and execution of flying training and operational support programs to ensure world-wide combat capability of Wing assigned F16C+ General Purpose aircraft. Provided the critical leadership transforming the Wing from Strategic Readiness to Operational Reserve – post 9/11 demands included not only Operational Southern Watch rotations over Iraq, but simultaneous Air Sovereignty Alert (ASA) duties under Operation Noble Eagle. While initially tasked at home station, countless Combat Air Patrol sorties were flown over assigned venues, and eventually included deployed ASA duties across the Southwest US. Chaired the Wing Health Improvement Program Working Group, writing an Instruction that exceeded AF and ANG standards while ensuring personnel safety and promoting a positive, long term commitment by Wing Airmen. Joint Forces Commander for the Montana Army and Air National Guard fire fighting response in 2003, safely leading over 300 Soldiers and Airmen into a potentially hazardous and unfamiliar environment totally outside of their military training skills.
- 07/98 – 10/01 Logistics Group Commander, 120 Fighter Wing. Commanded 500+ personnel performing on- and off-aircraft maintenance, quality assurance, supply chain management and transportation/distribution, contracting, and vehicle maintenance executing \$1.2M O+M and \$3.7M Depot Logistics Readiness budgets. Led the largest and most “mature” Group in the Wing through two major conversions: From Air Sovereignty to General Purpose – going from a “fighting in CONUS with no ground threat” scenario to one’s demanding a world-wide deployable force facing conventional, chemical/biological/ nuclear threat; and from F16A/B to F16C/D – aircraft that appear the same but share little commonality of parts or maintenance procedures. Continually sought for ways to improve working conditions and equipment to increase safety and efficiency, and to bolster worker morale through resourceful management of limited available funds – redistributed over \$1.2M toward unfunded requirements. Significantly upgraded a minimally equipped base gym into a Health/Fitness Center by making it an up-front funded bill at initial FY FMB. Commanded the 120 person-strong Air Component for the Montana National Guard fire fighting response in the worst fire season in Montana on record, 2000.
- 06/92 – 07/98 Operations Support Flight, 120 Fighter Wing. Held fulltime positions of Operations Support Flight Commander, Standardization and Evaluation Officer, and Weapons and Tactics Officer. Performed flying duties as Supervisor of Flying, Functional Check Flight Pilot, and Instructor Pilot. Wing Battle Officer during Air Combat Command (ACC) Operational Readiness Inspections (ORI) in 1993 and 1997 – preparatory programs and execution yielded “Outstanding” ratings for Operations both times. Recognized as a Superior Performer Team Member during the Wing’s 1995 Quality Air Force Assessment by ACC. Chaired the Wing’s Conversion Team migrating from F16A/B’s and Air

Sovereignty to F16 C/D's and General Purpose – a process aborted by ANG force structure reductions with 6 aircraft on the ramp and the majority of Operations and Logistics Group personnel having completed formal course training. Co-chair of the Wing's Resource Management Team charged with ensuring budget execution decisions were vetted with all affected Wing organizations and minimizing the wasteful replications of the past due to traditional "stovepipe" thinking. Flight Lead for the Wing's Team during the AF's prestigious biennial Air Gunnery Competition, William Tell 1992 – first place ANG Team and overall winner of the Gunnery Profile (20MM cannon firing against a towed and scored target).

- 04/90 – 06/92 Langley AFB, VA. F16 Weapons and Tactics Officer for First Air Force, responsible for all aspects of developing, implementing, and monitoring weapons and tactics programs for 19 F16, F15, and F4 squadrons in the AF and ANG. Operations Inspector on the Tactical Air Command inspector General Team that determined readiness, effectiveness, and capability of 298 TAC and TAC-gained units at 151 locations through conduct of ORI's and Unit Effectiveness Inspections. Instructor Pilot for F16A/B/C/D's. Separated from Active Duty on 16 Jun 1992.
- 06/89 – 04/90 Aggressor Pilot and Flight Commander, 527 Aggressor Squadron, RAF Bentwaters, UK. Responsible for raw intelligence analysis of European threat tactics and system capabilities, production of user oriented periodic and special updates, and replication of threat tactics and aircraft performance for in-theater USAF and NATO fighter forces. Program was terminated due to AF budgetary constrictions.
- 01/86 – 06/89 Language Student (Dutch/Flemish) at Defense Language Institute, Presidio of Monterey, CA – Honors Graduate. F16 USAF Exchange Pilot Officer to Belgian Air Force (BAF), 10 Tactical Wing, Kleine Brogel AB, Belgium. 31st Squadron Weapons and Tactics Officer and BAF Dissimilar Air Combat Training (DACT) Instructor Pilot. Authored the BAF DACT Syllabus, taught platform academics, and provided flight instruction. Winner of the 10th Wing Safety/Tactics Competition.
- 12/82 – 12/85 F16 Formal Course Instructor Pilot, Platform Academic Instructor, and Assistant Weapons Officer, 56th Tactical Training Wing, MacDill AFB, FL. Responsible for initial and tactical employment courseware development. Functional Check Flight Pilot.
- 03/80 – 12/82 4th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 388th Tactical Fighter Wing, Hill AFB, UT. Graduated from the first non-prior fighter experienced F16 training course and formed the initial cadre for the first operational F16 squadron in the USAF. Upgraded in minimum time to 4 ship flight lead and to Formal Course Instructor.
- 10/78 – 03/80 Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) at Columbus AFB, MS. The first UPT graduate in the US Air Force to be selected to train in the F16.

Formal Education

Texas A+M University at College Station. PhD candidate in History.

University of Texas at San Antonio. Graduate Student in HIS M.A. program. Nau Fellow in History – degree awarded 8 May 2018 (4.0 GPA) Awarded First Place for Graduate Student Research Papers at COLFA Research Conference – April 2017. Teaching Assistant for 5 semesters.

University of Texas at San Antonio. Dual Major in Anthropology and History with a minor in Geography. Nau Scholar in History, Senior Year. Awarded Second Place for Undergraduate Research Papers at COLFA Research Conference – April 2016. Summa Cum Laude Graduate (4.0) – May 2016.

Boston University, Mons-Bergen, Belgium. M.A. in International Relations/Strategic Studies. Honors Graduate – May 1989

Air University, Maxwell AFB, AL. Non-resident courses: Squadron Officer's School (June 1982), Air Command and Staff (Jan 1985), and Air War College (Mar 1996)

USAF Academy, Colorado Springs, CO. B.S. in Behavioral Sciences/Individual Behavior. Distinguished Graduate with 3.82 Cum and 4.0 Major's GPA's (ranked 10 of 981) – May 1978. Competed for and awarded an East/West Fellowship to the University of Hawaii (declined after receiving an eyesight waiver to attend Undergraduate Pilot Training)

Notable Achievements

Awarded ACC Aircrew Safety Award of Distinction, Jan 1998, for recovery of a severely damaged F16 Graduate, USAF Adversary Tactics Instructor Course, 1989
Graduate, USAF F16 Fighter Weapons Instructor Course, 1984
Outstanding Academic Award, USAF Undergraduate Pilot Training, 1979
Outstanding Cadet in a Far Eastern Language (Mandarin), USAF Academy, 1978

Awards and Decorations

Legion of Merit
Meritorious Service Medal with 4 devices
Air Medal
Aerial Achievement Medal
AF Commendation Medal with 4 devices
AF Achievement Medal
AF Outstanding Unit Award with 5 devices
AF Organizational Excellence Award
Combat Readiness Medal with 8 devices
AF Recognition Ribbon
National Defense Service Medal with 1 device
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Humanitarian Service Medal
AF Overseas Long Tour Ribbon

AF Longevity Service Award Ribbon with 5 devices
Armed Force Reserve Medal with on "M" device
Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon
AF Training Ribbon

Dates of Promotion

Second Lieutenant	31 May 1978
First Lieutenant	31 May 1980
Captain	31 May 1982
Major	1 Mar 1989
Lieutenant Colonel	18 Jan 1995
Colonel	1 Aug 2001

Interests

Sporting Activities: Master's swimming, Snowshoeing, cardio gym equipment, slalom water skiing
Woodworking – custom lodgepole furniture design and construction (harvesting to final finish), custom
butcher block cutting board construction from rough milled Texas hardwoods.
High Alpine Extended Backpacking – various Montana forests, but primarily Absarokee Wilderness
SCUBA Diving – NITROX certified with over 1000 open water dives off Taiwan, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba,
and St Eustatius. Underwater photographer with work featured in an article on infobonaire.com
posted 1 Nov 2017.
Sky Diving – Class B License holder with 109 Freefall jumps

References – contact information available on request

Mr. Rich Rico, Col (retired) Troy Frost, Col Tom Mora, Dr. Kristen Gardner, Dr. Kolleen Guy, Dr. Patrick J.
Kelly, Dr. Wingchung Ng, Dr. Gregg Michel, MG William Etter, MG Pat Moisiso, Lt Gen Harry Wyatt, Gen
Joseph Lengyel, Sen (retired) Max Baucus, Sen Jon Tester