



# BIOGRAPHY



## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAVID M. MAHAN

Lt Col David Mahan is the Commander, 1st Air Force, Detachment 3, Patrick SFB, FL. Detachment 3 (Human Space Flight Support Office) is the only full-time unit tasked to provide DoD support to the nation's crewed space flight programs and is responsible for worldwide astronaut rescue, recovery and retrieval, medical operations, as well as nominal and contingency landing site support.

Lt Col Mahan was commissioned in 2003 through the Air Force ROTC program at the University of Central Florida. He attended Space and Missile Operations training at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California and received qualifications in both the Peacekeeper and Minuteman III ICBM weapon systems. In 2006, he completed Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training at Moody AFB, Georgia, followed by Laughlin AFB, Texas. After receiving his wings, Lt Col Mahan's first operational flying assignment was in the C-17A at Charleston AFB, South Carolina. After completing his operational tour, he completed two assignments as a T-6A Instructor Pilot, teaching future USAF and International pilots, as well as Combat Systems Officers, in the T-6A Texan II. Prior to his current assignment, he served as Director of Operations, 1st Air Force, Detachment 3 where he was responsible for operations for worldwide astronaut rescue, nominal recovery, capsule retrieval, medical operations, and landing site support.



Lt Col Mahan has accumulated over 2,500 flight hours and deployed multiple times in support of Operations IRAQI FREEDOM, ENDURING FREEDOM, and NEW DAWN. He provided intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance support, from the USCENTCOM Joint Operations Center, for Operations INHERENT RESOLVE and FREEDOM'S SENTINEL.

#### EDUCATION

- 2003 Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts, University of Central Florida
- 2003 Aerospace Basic Course, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 2010 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2011 Aircraft Mishap Investigation Course, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
- 2012 Aviation Safety Program Management Course, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
- 2013 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala. (non-residence)
- 2014 Master's Degree in Aeronautics, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Fla.
- 2020 Joint Personnel Recovery Agency, Personnel Recovery Execution, Fredericksburg, Va.

#### ASSIGNMENTS

1. October 2003 - April 2004: Student, Space and Missile Operations, 392<sup>nd</sup> Combat Training Squadron, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
2. April 2004 - October 2005: ICBM Combat Crew, Peacekeeper, 400<sup>th</sup> Missile Squadron, F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo.
3. October 2005 - June 2006: ICBM Combat Crew Commander, Minuteman III, 320<sup>th</sup> Missile Squadron, F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo.

4. June 2006 - March 2007: Student, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, T-6A Texan II, 3<sup>rd</sup> Flight Training Squadron, Moody AFB, Ga.
5. March 2007 - April 2008: Student, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, T-1A Jayhawk, 86<sup>th</sup> Flight Training Squadron, Laughlin AFB, Texas.
6. April 2008 - June 2010: Chief, Mission Support, Asst Director of Staff, C-17A Pilot, 15<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, Charleston AFB, S.C.
7. July 2010 - May 2011: Primary Instructor Training, T-6A Pilot, 559<sup>th</sup> Flight Training Squadron, Randolph AFB, Texas.
8. May 2011 - Apr 2014: Chief of Safety, Asst Ops Officer, T-6A Instructor Pilot, 37<sup>th</sup> Flight Training Squadron, Columbus AFB, M.S.
9. April 2014 - October 2016: Assistant Director of Operations, T-6A Instructor Pilot, 455<sup>th</sup> Flight Training Squadron, Pensacola NAS, Fla.
10. October 2016 - May 2018: Mobility LNO, Rescue Division Chief, Detachment 3, 45<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, Patrick AFB, Fla.
11. May 2018 - October 2019: Commercial Crew Division Chief, Detachment 3, 45<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.
12. October 2019 - June 2021: Director of Operations, Detachment 3, 45<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, Patrick Space Force Base, Fla.
13. June 2021 – June 2022: Commander, Detachment 1, 730<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Squadron, Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory.
14. June 2022 – July 2023: Artemis Program Director, 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force, Detachment 3, Patrick Space Force Base, Fla.
15. July 2023 – Feb 2024: Director of Operations, 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force, Detachment 3, Patrick Space Force Base, Fla.
16. Feb 2024 – Present: Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force, Detachment 3, Patrick Space Force Base, Fla.

#### **FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Rating: Senior Pilot

Flight hours: More than 2,500, including 491 combat hours

Aircraft flown: C-17A, T-6A, T-1A, T-38C, TH-1H

#### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air and Space Commendation Medal

Joint Service Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Air and Space Achievement Medal

Combat Readiness Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Afghanistan Campaign Medal with service star

Iraq Campaign Medal with service star

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal with service star

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal

Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal with "N" device

#### **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant May 28, 2003

First Lieutenant May 28, 2005

Captain May 28, 2007

Major October 1, 2013

Lieutenant Colonel April 1, 2018

(Current as of March 2024)