



CCAF Update September 1, 2021

CONTACT YOUR EDUCATION OFFICE

There are CCAF trained Education Advisors located in the Education Office at your home station to answer your CCAF questions and to show you where you can find helpful information to assist you along the way.

For information about your Community College of the Air Force AAS degree programs, Bachelor's degree pathways through AU-ABC, the GEM program, professional licenses and certifications through AFCOOL, and a host of other information and offerings, visit the website:

airuniversity.af.edu/Barnes/CCAF

Quick Links:

afvec.us.af.mil/afvec/public/welcome

afvec.us.af.mil/afvec/af-cool/welcome

airuniversity.af.edu/Barnes/CCAF

facebook.com/CCAFDECM

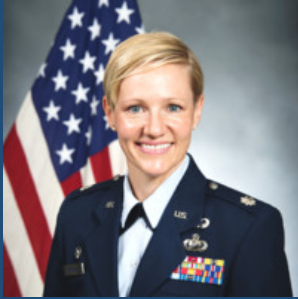
instagram.com/official_ccaf

reddit.com/r/ccaf

linkedin.com/school/community-college-of-the-air-force



Out with the old, In with the New



“Out with the old, in with the new” means to leave old things or ideas behind and start fresh with new things or ideas. People usually say this at the beginning of a new year or at the beginning of something new. In this case, I’m referring to the change of command that has taken place at the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF). As the “old” commandant, I want to say I have been honored to be a part of the CCAF family. The past two years have flown by and yet I am so proud of all that we collectively have accomplished...

- Updates to academic credit awarding policies and practices strengthened the integrity and value of the CCAF degree
- Re-connections with key CCAF stakeholders enhanced communications at all levels and increased awareness of and advocacy for CCAF programs
- Development of a new CCAF degree-the MTASM-launching Oct 21 providing degree pathways to existing as well as new students from our sister services attending CCAF-affiliated programs

While these are just a few of the more significant accomplishments, there is more to do. And I am pleased and excited to introduce the “new” incoming CCAF Commandant, Lt Col Kevin Pond, coming to us from Hawaii who I am confident will successfully lead the CCAF team into the future. Best wishes to each of you!

Lt Col Melanie Presuto



Aloha! Aloha is a form of greeting, to say hello, welcome. But it's also a form of farewell, or to say goodbye. So as I assume command of CCAF, I say Aloha – farewell to Lt Col Melanie Presuto and I thank her for her leadership of the College and for her professionalism and generous spirit as we worked together during this time of transition. Also, Aloha – hello to each of you. I am excited about being a part of the CCAF team and for the opportunity to lead the College into the future, marked notably by the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the College next year, on 1 April 2022.

The CCAF team has accomplished much and yet as Lt Col Presuto has indicated, there is so much more potential and possible for this amazing organization. So I commit to each of you to listen first and to learn as quickly as I can about who we are, what we’re about, and the challenges and opportunities before us. As always in life and in our Air Force, change is inevitable. My focus will be to ensure that change, when needed, reflects our collective wisdom. The Polynesian culture offers such wisdom through stories and proverbs, and I would like to leave you with this one:

‘A’OHE PU’U KI’EKI’E KE HO’A’O ‘IA E PI’I
which is translated to mean, “No cliff is so tall it cannot be climbed.” Let’s reach new heights together as a CCAF team.

Lt Col Kevin Pond



Vice Commandant Corner



All good things must come to an end.” As I culminate 30 years of service, it’s now time to hand over the Vice Commandant position. The Community College of the Air Force is a world-class organization that other services are trying to emulate. We set the standard for educational excellence in the Armed Forces and there simply is no one that comes close. Here are a handful of key tasks the team has been able to accomplish in the past couple years:

- Reinvigorate strategic communications with the Air Force and United States Space Force
- Educate Senior Enlisted Leaders in all Services about the CCAF mission, vision, staff composition
- Professionalize our Airmen and focus on career development and growth
- Inspire, motivate, and recognize our most important resource...our team of AD Airmen, Reservists, Civilians, and Contractors

Thank you to hundreds of Education Service Officers around the world for guiding and mentoring Airmen. You are key to making CCAF’s mission happen and if there’s anything you need, please reach out to the new Vice Commandant, CMSgt Alexius Reid. Alexius, best of luck in the new position...I know you’ll take the College to new heights!

CMSgt Kevin P. Kloeppel



It is my absolute honor to carry the CCAF torch! I cannot tell you how excited I am to join this dynamic team, to include those inside our headquarters building, as well as those of you located around the globe. My plan is to build upon an extraordinary legacy, one that started nearly 50 years ago—a legacy that includes the accomplishments CMSgt Kloeppel shared, such as reconnecting us to key stakeholders, and amplifying our outreach efforts. Amazing!

The American poet and civil rights activist, Maya Angelou, said, “My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive-- and to do so with passion and compassion...” I am convinced we do this at CCAF. Every transcript request, call, credit awarded, and course validation is marked with passion, purpose, professionalism, pride, and compassion. These attributes propel the CCAF mission—a worldwide, collaborative charge to “Elevate the Enlisted Profession.”

As I prepare to embark upon this journey, I am reminded transition is as much about the process as it is the product, which is why I look forward to learning alongside you, and using the momentum of the past to propel us into the future. The strength of the team will allow us to carry the CCAF torch for another 50 years, so thank you in advance for providing a pathway to higher learning for those with a calling to serve!

CMSgt Alexius J. Reid



On the horizon for your CCAF

by Robert Dantzler
1 September 2021

Covid-19 presented a lot of challenges to doing business as usual, but like everyone we've done our best to work around these difficult circumstances. To ensure the safety and well-being of our staff we've encouraged and utilized tele-working, but at this moment we're all back in the office and settling into a different daily routine with necessary safety protocols in place.

Throughout all that mayhem, there's a lot of great things that we've designed, implemented and are preparing to execute that will help us serve the Air Force and DoD communities to a greater extent.

The first major project we'd like to tell you about is our brand new Associate of Applied Sciences degree projected to be available on October 1st. The degree is not attached to a specific AFSC, the area of study is called Military Technology and Applied Sciences Management, or "MTASM". This degree serves many purposes but one of the primary benefits of this degree is that it fills a void where certain technical training programs do not meet academic accreditation requirements for college credit, and to the AFSC's and SDI's affected by that, this provides a pathway to a degree.

On the 23rd of July, CCAF hosted a contemporary issues panel discussion focused on diversity and inclusion, the conclusion of a 6-session series. This panel discussion served as an opportunity for community leaders, academic leaders from Troy University, military service members, and CCAF faculty to engage in conversations about current, sometimes difficult, but important topics, to see how we can partner together to make the force better, our communities better, and ourselves better.

Another exciting opportunity that will take place next year is a 50th Anniversary of the Community College of the Air Force. Our lofty goals for events during that celebration include a graduation ceremony for 1,000 students from across the Air Force, a banquet dinner featuring exciting entertainment and representatives from dozens of colleges and universities from all over the U.S. It is a massive undertaking and if we're able to coordinate half of our current expectations, it'll be an event that you'll never forget.



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL KEVIN R. POND

Lt Col Kevin R. Pond is the Commandant and Commander of the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF), a federally chartered academic institution. CCAF provides career-related associate degrees in applied science programs and industry recognized professional certifications and licenses in order to elevate the enlisted profession across the total force to support recruiting, retention, career transition efforts, and mission capability and readiness. CCAF is the world's largest community college system, servicing approximately 413,000 enrolled students, across 115 schools, with over 6,700 instructors.

A native of Dallas/Ft. Worth TX, Lt Col Pond received his commission in 2005 through the ROTC program at the University of Texas at Dallas. After serving as a Flight Test Analyst for the operational release of the CV-22, Lt Col Pond was competitively selected to earn a PhD in Mathematics at Virginia Tech with follow-on assignment at the Air Force Institute of Technology. While at AFIT, Lt Col Pond deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan in support of Combine Joint Task Force Paladin. Lt Col Pond then served as the Sr. Military Analyst and finally the Deputy Division Chief in the Analyses & Assessments Division, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces where he managed the deployment of modeling and simulation capabilities designed to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of theater war plans, contingencies, operations, and exercises. After PACAF, Lt Col Pond was selected to attend Air Command and Staff College before joining USINDOPACOM as a Political-Military Affairs Strategist covering the Oceania Region of the Indo-Pacific.



EDUCATION

2003 Bachelors of Science in Mathematical Science, The University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, Texas
2005 Masters of Science in Mathematical Science, The University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, Texas
2010 Doctorate in Mathematics, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia
2011 Distinguished Graduate, Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
2018 Masters of Military Operational Art and Science, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Alabama

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Jun 2005 – Jul 2007, Operations Analyst, Special Operations Test Division, Edwards AFB, California
2. Aug 2007 – Aug 2010, PhD Student, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia
3. Aug 2010 – Aug 2011, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, AFIT, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
4. Aug 2011 – Mar 2012, Operations Research and Systems Analysts, CJTF Paladin, Kandahar, Afghanistan
5. Apr 2012 – Aug 2014, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, AFIT, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
6. Sep 2014 – Sep 2015, Sr. Military Analyst, Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii
7. Oct 2015 – Jun 2017, Deputy Division Chief, Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii
8. Jul 2017 – Jun 2018, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
9. Jun 2018 – Jun 2019, Australia & New Zealand Country Director, US Indo-Pacific Command, Camp Smith, Hawaii
9. Jun 2019 – May 2021, Oceania Region Country Director, US Indo-Pacific Command, Camp Smith, Hawaii
10. Jun 2021 – Present, Commandant, Community College of the Air Force, Maxwell-Gunter Annex, Montgomery, AL

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. Aug 2011 - Mar 2012, Operations Researcher and Systems Analyst, Combine Joint Task Force Paladin South, Kandahar, Afghanistan
2. Jun 2018 – May 2021, Oceania Region Country Director, US Indo-Pacific Command, Camp Smith, Hawaii

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal
Joint Service Commendation Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster
Joint Service Achievement Medal
Air Force Achievement Medal
Joint Meritorious Unit Award
Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with two oak leaf clusters
Army Meritorious Unit Commendation
Afghanistan Campaign Medal with bronze star

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant June 2005
First Lieutenant June 2007
Captain June 2009
Major October 2015
Lieutenant Colonel April 2020

(Current as of Jun 2021)



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT ALEXIUS J. REID

Chief Master Sergeant Alexius J. Reid is the Vice Commandant, Community College of the Air Force. In this capacity, she advises the Commandant and Department of the Air Force senior leaders on issues impacting more than 278,000 Total Force students attending the largest multi-campus community college in the world. The college oversees more than 69 degree and credentialing programs, partnerships with 111 affiliated and accredited schools, 6,300 faculty, 300 Education Services Offices, and over 1,500 partnering civilian academic institutions. As the college's principal advocate for enlisted professionals, Chief Reid ensures daily operations and academic guidelines support recruiting, retention, readiness, career transition, and professional development at all levels.



Chief Reid entered the Air Force as a Mental Health Services technician in 1996, and retrained into the Paralegal career field in 2000. She has held various leadership positions at the wing, Field Operating Agency, and Headquarters Air Force levels. Her strategic focus has consistently been on education, training, and development. Chief Reid has served as a Law Office Superintendent, Wing Staff Agency Superintendent, Technical Training School Instructor and Instructor Supervisor, Additional Duty First Sergeant, Inspections Directorate Manager, and Senior Enlisted Advisor to The Judge Advocate General's Corps' only command billet. Prior to assuming her current position, she was the Manager, Strategic Executive Communications. In that role, she executed Senior Paralegal Manager and 5J Career Field Manager initiatives, impacting more than 1,400 paralegals worldwide. Chief Reid has been a Master Resilience Trainer since 2015.

EDUCATION

- 2001 Airman Leadership School (Academic Award), United States Air Force Academy, CO
- 2009 Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Maxwell AFB-Gunter Annex, AL
- 2010 Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy (Correspondence)
- 2010 Associate of Applied Science, Paralegal Studies, Community College of the Air Force
- 2010 Associate of Applied Science, Mental Health Services, Community College of the Air Force
- 2012 Bachelor of Arts, Social and Criminal Justice (Summa Cum Laude), Ashford University, Iowa
- 2012 Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education Course (Correspondence)
- 2012 Professional Manager's Certification, Community College of the Air Force
- 2013 Basic Instructor Course (Distinguished Graduate), Keesler AFB, MS
- 2014 Associate of Applied Science, Instructor of Technology and Military Science, Community College of the Air Force
- 2014 Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy (Academic Award/Distinguished Graduate), Maxwell AFB-Gunter Annex, AL
- 2015 Master Resilience Trainer Course, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ
- 2017 Level I Instructor Certification, Community College of the Air Force
- 2019 Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education Course II (Correspondence)
- 2021 Chief Master Sergeant Leadership Course (Correspondence), Maxwell AFB-Gunter Annex, AL

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Nov 96 – Jun 00, Mental Health Services Technician, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, Keesler AFB, MS
2. Sep 00 – May 04, NCOIC, Military Justice, Civil Law, and Claims, 10th Air Base Wing, Headquarters United States Air Force Academy, CO
3. May 04 – May 06, Claims and Military Justice Paralegal, 20th Fighter Wing, Shaw AFB, SC
4. May 06 – Jun 07, NCOIC, Adverse Actions, 51st Fighter Wing, Osan AB, Republic of Korea
5. Jun 07 – Apr 08, NCOIC, Military Justice, 42d Air Base Wing, Maxwell AFB, AL

6. Apr 08 – Jul 10, Defense Paralegal, Air Force Legal Operations Agency, Maxwell AFB, AL
7. Jul 10 – Aug 13, Wing Staff Agency Superintendent and Law Office Superintendent, 14th Flying Training Wing, Columbus AFB, MS
8. Aug 13 – Aug 17, Paralegal Apprentice Course Instructor, Instructor Supervisor and Additional Duty First Sergeant, Air Force Legal Operations Agency, Maxwell AFB, AL
9. Aug 17 – Aug 19, Manager, Civil Law and Litigation Directorate, Air Force Legal Operations Agency, Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility, MD
10. Aug 19 – Aug 20, Manager, Inspections and Standardization Directorate (JAI), Office of The Judge Advocate General, Headquarters Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, DC
11. Apr 20 – Oct 20, Command Paralegal Manager, Air Force Legal Operations Agency, Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility, MD (dual-hatted as JAI Manager from Apr-Aug 20)
12. Nov 20 – Jun 21, Manager, Strategic Executive Communications, Professional Development Directorate, Office of The Judge Advocate General, Headquarters Air Force, Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility, MD
13. Jul 21 – Present, Vice Commandant, Community College of the Air Force, Maxwell AFB-Gunter Annex, AL

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal (2 OLC)
Air Force Commendation Medal (3 OLC)
Air Force Achievement Medal
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (6 OLC)
Air Force Organizational Excellence Award
Air Force Special Duty Ribbon

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2010 Charleston Region Defense Paralegal NCO of the Year
2010 19th Air Force Outstanding Paralegal SNCO of the Year
2011 14th Flying Training Wing Staff Agency SNCO of the Year
2012 14th Flying Training Wing Tuskegee Airman Incorporated SNCO of the Year
2012 14th Flying Training Wing Federally Employed Woman of the Year
2015 The Air Force Judge Advocate General's School Outstanding Paralegal SNCO of the Year
2016 The Air Force Judge Advocate General's School Outstanding Paralegal SNCO of the Year
2018 Air Force Legal Operations Agency Outstanding Paralegal SNCO of the Year
2018 The Judge Advocate General's Corps Outstanding Paralegal SNCO of the Year

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Chief Master Sergeant - 1 January 20

(Current as of Jul 21)