



# BIOGRAPHY



## **UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE**

### **COLONEL NIKKI R. FRANKINO**



Col Nikki R. Frankino is the Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. In this role, she provides counsel and assistance to the Secretary on all military matters and interfaces directly on the Secretary's behalf with senior civilian and military members of the Secretariat, the Air and Space Forces staffs, Major Commands, the Joint Staff, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the White House, the Intelligence Community and other governmental agencies.

Col Frankino entered the Air Force in May 1998 as a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy. She has served in a variety of space operations and staff positions in Air Force Space Command, the Pentagon, and the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO). Her notable NRO tours include Executive Officer to the Deputy Director of the NRO, Chief of Staff of the Ground Enterprise Directorate, and Commander of the Operations Support Squadron at ADF-East. Col Frankino was also the Senior Military Evaluator for Space, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Systems, Director, Operational Test and Evaluation, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. Col Frankino transitioned into the United States Space Force in October 2019.

Prior to her current position, Col Frankino was the Commander, Delta 21 and Deputy Commander at Aerospace Data Facility East, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, where she directed the operations of an 1800+ member Joint Department of Defense and inter-agency satellite ground station, responsible for 24/7 global mission operations in support of the National Command Authorities, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Combatant Commands and the Director of National Intelligence with time sensitive intelligence data.

### **EDUCATION**

1998 Bachelor of Science degree in Management, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.

2003 Master of Science degree in Administration, Central Michigan University

2004 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2010 Master of Science degree in Strategic Intelligence, National Defense Intelligence College, Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C.

2019 Master of Science degree in National Security and Resource Strategy, Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. May 1998 – July 1999, Distinguished Graduate, Undergraduate Space and Missile training, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
2. July 1999 – July 2003, ICBM Wing Emergency War Order Instructor, Minot AFB, N.D.
3. July 2003 – July 2006, Test Program Manager and Executive Officer, NAVSTAR Global Positioning System, Space and Missile Systems Center, Los Angeles AFB, Calif.
4. July 2006 – July 2009, Flight Commander, Processing Operations, Data Masked
5. July 2009 – July 2010, Student, National Defense Intelligence College, Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C.
6. July 2010 – July 2013, Branch Chief, Space Superiority Branch, Directorate of Strategic Plans, Programs and Analyses, HQ AFSPC, Peterson AFB, Colo.
7. July 2013 – July 2014, Deputy Division Chief, DoD Executive Agent for Space Staff, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
8. July 2014 – July 2016, Squadron Commander, Operations Support Squadron, National Reconnaissance Office, Fort Belvoir, Va.
9. July 2016 – July 2017, Chief of Staff, Ground Enterprise Directorate, National Reconnaissance Office, Chantilly, Va.
10. July 2017 – July 2018, Executive Officer, Deputy Director, National Reconnaissance Office, Chantilly, Va.
11. July 2018 – July 2019, Student, Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.
12. July 2019 – July 2021, Senior Military Evaluator for Space, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Systems, Director, Operational Test and Evaluation, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Washington, D.C.
13. July 2021 – June 2023, Commander, Delta 21 and Deputy Commander, Aerospace Data Facility East, Fort Belvoir, Va.
14. June 2023 – Present, Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

### **SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS**

July 2019 – July 2021, Senior Military Evaluator for Space, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Systems, Director, Operational Test and Evaluation, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Washington, D.C., as a colonel

### **BADGES**

Master Space Operations Badge  
Basic Missile Badge

### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Defense Superior Service Medal  
Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster  
Meritorious Service Medal  
Joint Service Commendation Medal  
Air Force Commendation Medal

Joint Meritorious Unit Award  
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters  
Combat Readiness Medal  
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal  
Air and Space Campaign Medal  
Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal with 'N' Device

**EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant May 27, 1998  
First Lieutenant May 27, 2000  
Captain May 27, 2002  
Major January 1, 2008  
Lieutenant Colonel May 1, 2013  
Colonel July 1, 2019

(Current as of April 2024)