



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



COLONEL SHELLY L. MENDIETA (ret.)

Colonel Shelly L. Mendieta is the Senior Aerospace Science Instructor at TX-20264, Johnson High School in Buda, Texas, where she leads the Air Force Junior ROTC program and develops cadets through leadership, citizenship, service, and aerospace education. She brings more than 25 years of Air Force leadership, operational, and instructional experience to the classroom, with a focus on developing young people of character who are prepared to serve their school, community, and nation.

Colonel Mendieta retired as the Operations and Communications Directorate (A3/6) Deputy Director for Force Development (FD) at HQ Air Education and Training Command, JBSA-Randolph, TX. She led the four divisions specifically working FD for the USAF and directed the implementation of an Airman-centric, mission-focused, and competency based approach to develop Airmen and transform learning.

Colonel Mendieta entered the Air Force in May 1999, receiving her commission from the Air Force ROTC program at The University of Texas. She earned her navigator wings at Joint Undergraduate Navigator Training at Pensacola Naval Air Station, Florida. Col Mendieta held multiple positions at the headquarters, wing, and squadron levels, with operational tours at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina, and Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. Col Mendieta is a previously qualified Flight Examiner, Instructor Weapon Systems Officer (WSO), and Formal Training Unit Instructor WSO with multiple deployments in support of Operations IRAQI and ENDURING FREEDOM, FREEDOM'S SENTINEL, and the RESOLUTE SUPPORT mission. She has more than 2,400 total flying hours, including 526 combat hours in the F-15E.



As the 455 Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron Commander, Col Mendieta directed the diverse operations of 122 personnel across 2 bases, in support of 7 squadrons and 340,000 missions at the Department of Defense's busiest combat logistics hub. As the 39th Air Base Wing Vice Commander, she was responsible for approximately 3,500 U.S. military, civilian and contractor personnel and the combat readiness of five geographically separated units. Col Mendieta was also responsible for Base Operations Support Integrator (BOS-I) activities for Turkey-based Combined and Joint forces conducting Operations INHERENT RESOLVE, NOMAD SHADOW, and ACTIVE FENCE.

EDUCATION

1999 Bachelor of Arts, Biology, University of Texas, Austin, Texas
2007 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
2010 Masters, Aeronautics, Embry-Riddle University-Worldwide, Daytona Beach, Fla.
2010 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
2012 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala. – Distinguished Graduate
2017 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 1999-May 2001, Student, Joint Undergraduate Navigator Training, Training Squadrons 4 and 86, Pensacola Naval Air Station, Fla.
2. May 2001-March 2002, Student F-15E WSO, 333d Fighter Squadron, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.
3. March 2002-January 2005, F-15E Instructor WSO, Chief of Mobility and Training Officer, 335th Fighter Squadron, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.
4. January 2005 – July 2005, Student Instructor WSO, 333rd Fighter Squadron, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.
5. July 2005 – July 2007, F-15E Instructor WSO and Flight Evaluator, Life Support Officer and Flight Commander, 333d Fighter Squadron, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.
6. July 2007-August 2011, T-39 Joint Undergraduate Navigator Training WSO Evaluator, Chief of Ground Safety, Assistant Operations Officer, Chief of Standardization and Evaluation and Senior Air Force Officer, Training Squadron 86, Pensacola Naval Air Station, Fla.
7. August 2011 – September 2012, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
8. September 2012 – February 2013, Assistant Director of Operations, 389th Fighter Squadron, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho
9. February 2013 – May 2014, Chief of Safety, 366 Fighter Wing, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho
10. May 2014 – March 2015, Director of Operations, 389th Fighter Squadron, Mountain Home AFB, ID with duties as Chief of Safety 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan
11. March 2015 - March 2016, Commander, 455th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan
12. March 2016 – June 2017, Student, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
13. June 2017 – June 2019, AF/A5RC Chief, Joint Air Dominance Branch, USAF Pentagon, Washington D.C.
14. June 2019 – June 2020, Director, Operations (A3) USAF Warfare Center, Nellis AFB, Nevada
15. June 2020 – June 2021, Vice Commander, 39th Air Base Wing, Incirlik Air Base, Turkey
16. June 2021 – February 2024, Operations and Communications Directorate (A3/6) Special Assistant to the Director and Deputy Director for Force Development (FD) at HQ Air Education and Training Command, JBSA-Randolph, TX.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Master Navigator

Total Flight hours: More than 2,400

Aircraft flown: F-15E, AT-38, T-39, T-1, T-34

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit with one device

Bronze Star

Meritorious Service Medal with three devices

Air Medal with eight devices

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with one device

Navy Commendation Medal with one device

Navy Achievement Medal

Air Force Combat Action Medal

Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two devices

Iraq Campaign Medal with two devices

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 21, 1999

First Lieutenant Jun 2, 2001

Captain Jun 2, 2003

Major Feb 1, 2009

Lieutenant Colonel Dec 1, 2013

Colonel Jan 1, 2020