



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

MAJOR AUSTIN B. MCKINNEY

Maj. Austin McKinney, an Air Force Reserve Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA), is Joint Strategic Engagement Officer, Joint Reserve Directorate, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. He is responsible for providing guidance and support to a range of innovation programs and rapid fielding initiatives, focusing on the identification, evaluation, and deployment of emerging technologies.

Maj. McKinney received his commission in 2010 through the U.S. Air Force Academy. Most recently, he served with the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), where he delivered commercial market insight and program management support to a range of innovation programs in DIU's autonomy and artificial intelligence / machine learning portfolios. Maj. McKinney has also served in multiple acquisitions program management roles within the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center (AFLCMC), contributing to the discovery, development, and delivery of next-generation weapons systems related to ballistic missile defense and Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) technologies. He is also certified as a Foreign Area Officer (FAO) for the Latin American region. He has deployed experience Qatar, Colombia, and Honduras.

As a civilian, he is a Foreign Service Officer (FSO) with the U.S. Department of State. In this role, he serves as an economic diplomat to advance American foreign policy interests in trade, investment, and technology. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Maj. McKinney also worked as a Senior Manager for strategy and operations at HubSpot, the high-growth CRM software firm in Cambridge, Mass.



EDUCATION

2010 Bachelor of Science with distinction in management, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
2011 Master of Arts with distinction in Latin American studies, University of London, United Kingdom
2012 Master of Science with distinction in international economy, London School of Economics, United Kingdom
2014 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
2016 International Squadron Officer School, Inter-American Air Forces Academy, Bogota, Colombia
2018 Master of Business Administration with distinction, Harvard Business School, Cambridge, Mass.
2021 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence

ASSIGNMENTS

1. May 2010 - Oct. 2012, AFIT Masters Student, Marshall Scholar, London, United Kingdom
2. Oct. 2012 - April 2014, Program Manager, Upgraded Early Warning Radar Program., AFLCMC, Hanscom AFB, Mass. (Sept. 2013 - April 2014, Executive Officer, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar)
3. April 2014 - Oct. 2014, Deputy Program Manager, Cobra Dane Radar Program, AFLCMC, Hanscom AFB, Mass. (May - Oct. 2014, Deputy Director of Operations, Security Cooperation Office, U.S. Embassy, Bogota, Colombia)
4. Sept. 2014 - Aug. 2016, Lead, Integration, Missile Defense Systems Branch, AFLCMC, Hanscom AFB, Mass. (May - Jul 2016, Analysis Lead, Operation New Horizons, Trujillo, Honduras)
5. Aug. 2016 - March 2018, Acquisition Manager, Intelligence Systems Branch, AFLCMC, Hanscom AFB, Mass.
6. March 2018 - March 2019, Chief, IT Portfolio Operations, Defense Innovation Unit, Boston, Mass.
7. March 2019 - March 2022, Joint Force Modernization Officer, Defense Innovation Unit, Boston, Mass.
8. March 2022 - present, Joint Strategic Engagement Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Joint Service Commendation Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster
Air Force Achievement Medal
Air Force Organizational Excellence Award
National Defense Service Medal
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal
2018 Program Executive Office (PEO) IMA CGO of the Year

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 26, 2010

First Lieutenant May 26, 2012

Captain May 26, 2014

Major May 15