



Deputy Commander

Brigadier General Barbra S. Buls

Brigadier General Barbra “Bobby” S. Buls is the Deputy Commander, NATO Mission Iraq, Baghdad, Iraq. NATO Mission Iraq (NMI) brings together military and civilian personnel from across the alliance with expertise in security sector reform, institution building, training, and professional military education. The mission works with the Iraqi Ministry of Defense, Iraqi Office of the National Security Advisor, and the Iraqi Prime Minister’s National Operations Center. NMI’s primary mission is to train and advise senior Ministry of Defense leaders on techniques to establish an enduring national security strategy, national military strategy, and repeatable defense planning and programming processes supporting the Iraqi Security Force organizations.

General Buls was commissioned in 1992 through the Air National Guard (ANG) Academy of Military Science following her 1986 enlistment. General Buls is an accomplished commander and senior aircraft maintenance officer. She has served in a variety of assignments on the National Guard Bureau and Headquarters Air Force Staff and in a joint assignment at United States Strategic Command.

General Buls has deployed in support of multiple major operations including Operation PROVIDE COMFORT/NORTHERN WATCH, SOUTHERN WATCH, ENDURING FREEDOM, NOBLE EAGLE, FREEDOM’S SENTINEL and Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. Her civilian experience includes more than 20 years of executive leadership and management in the health insurance industry and certification as a Six Sigma Black Belt. Prior to her current assignment, she served as the Air National Guard Director of Logistics, Engineering, and Force Protection (A4), Air National Guard Readiness Center, National Guard Bureau.

EDUCATION

- 1990 Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
- 1997 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base (AFB), Ala.
- 2004 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
- 2010 Master of Science in National Resource Strategy, Eisenhower-Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, D.C.
- 2012 National Security Studies Management Course, Syracuse, N.Y.
- 2013 CJCS Level IV Antiterrorism Executive Training, Booz Allen Hamilton, McLean, Va.
- 2014 Director of Mobility Forces, course audit, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
- 2016 Nuclear 300, Advanced Nuclear Concepts, Air Force Institute of Technology, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
- 2016 Space Operations Course, Peterson AFB, Colo.
- 2017 Joint Cyberspace Operations Planning Course, United States Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, Neb.
- 2017 Nuclear 400, Senior Leader Nuclear Management, Air Force Institute of Technology, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
- 2018 National Security Senior Managers Course, Elliot School of International Affairs, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
- 2021 Senior Leader Orientation Course, Arlington, Va.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 1986 - August 1986, Honor Graduate, Basic Military Training, Lackland AFB, Texas
2. August 1986 - December 1986, Student, Ground Radio Operator Course, Offutt AFB, Neb.
3. December 1986 - June 1992, Ground Radio Operator, Communications Squadron, 114th Tactical Fighter Wing, Joe Foss Field Air National Guard Base (ANGB), S.D.
4. June 1992 - July 1992, Student, ANG Academy of Military Science, McGhee-Tyson ANGB, Tenn.
5. July 1992 - April 1993, OIC, Munitions Maintenance, 114th Consolidated Maintenance Squadron, Joe Foss Field ANGB, S.D.
6. April 1993 - July 1993, Student, Aircraft Maintenance Munitions Officer Course, Sheppard AFB, Texas
7. July 1993 - July 1994, OIC, Munitions Maintenance, 114th Consolidated Maintenance Squadron, Joe Foss Field ANGB, S.D.
8. July 1994 - June 1997, OIC, Equipment Maintenance Flight, 114th Maintenance Squadron, Joe Foss Field ANGB, S.D.
9. July 1997 - July 1999, OIC, Organizational Maintenance, 114th Aircraft Generation Squadron, Joe Foss Field ANGB, S.D.
10. July 1999 - April 2006, Maintenance Officer, 155th Aircraft Generation Squadron / Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Lincoln ANGB, Neb.
11. April 2006 - July 2009, Commander, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Lincoln ANGB, Neb.
12. July 2009 - June 2010, Student, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University, Ft. McNair, D.C.
13. June 2010 - June 2011, Action Officer, Joint Officer Management, NGB/J1, and Director's Action Group, NGB/CF, Staff Fellowship Program, Arlington Va.
14. June 2011 - September 2012, Director, Human Resources, ANGRC, Joint Base Andrews, Md.
15. October 2012 - October 2014, Commander, 155th Maintenance Group, Lincoln ANGB, Neb., (July 2014 - January 2015, Air Reserve Component Advisor, United States Air Forces Central, Al Udeid AB, Qatar)
16. October 2014 - September 2015, State Director of Operations, Nebraska Joint Force Headquarters, ANGB, Neb., (July 2014 - January 2015, Air Reserve Component Advisor, United States Air Forces Central, Al Udeid AB, Qatar)
17. September 2015 - June 2018, Air National Guard Advisor to the Commander, United States Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, Neb., Joint Duty Assignment as a colonel
18. June 2018 - September 2018, Principal Deputy Director, NGB/A4 Installations and Logistics, Air National Guard Readiness Center, Joint Base Andrews, Md.
19. September 2018 - June 2020, Vice Commander, Air National Guard Readiness Center, and Commander, 201st Mission Support Squadron, Joint Base Andrews, Md.
20. July 2020 – March 2021, Director, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Temple Hall Army Readiness Center, Arlington, Va.
21. April 2021 – March 2023, Special Assistant to the Chief, National Guard Bureau, for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and Director, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Temple Hall Army Readiness Center, Arlington, Va.
22. April 2023 – December 2023, Director, Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection, Air National Guard Readiness Center, Joint Base Andrews, Md.
23. January 2024 – Current, Deputy Commander, NATO Mission Iraq, Baghdad, Iraq

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

September 2015 - June 2018, ANG Advisor to the Commander, United States Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, Neb. as a colonel

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit
Defense Superior Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal
Air Force Achievement Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant July 30, 1992
First Lieutenant Sept. 10, 1994
Captain Oct. 5, 1996
Major Oct. 14, 2000
Lieutenant Colonel April 2, 2006
Colonel June 8, 2011
Brigadier General April 1, 2021

(Current as of January 2024)