



# BIOGRAPHY



## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### LIEUTENANT COLONEL MICHAEL V. BUENDIA

Lieutenant Colonel Michael V. Buendia is the Commander, Recruiting and Retention, Headquarters, Hawaii Air National Guard (HIANG), Hawaii. He leads 19 full-time guardsmen in executing the essential mission of maintaining the force's mandated end strength and retention rates, ensuring the force is ready and staffed to meet both state and federal missions. His oversight directly supports the operational readiness and long-term stability of the HIANG.

Lieutenant Colonel Buendia began his career in 1995, enlisting in the HIANG, 169th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron (ACWS), at Wheeler Army Airfield (AAF), HI, as a Region Operations Control Center (ROCC) Systems Journeyman. Lt Col Buendia received his commission through the Academy of Military Science, McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base (ANGB), TN and completed formal United States Air Force (USAF) officer training as an Air Battle Manager in Tyndall AFB, FL. After holding a variety of operational and battle staff management positions in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE at the 169th Air Defense Squadron (ADS), he was assigned to a tour as the 154th Wing Executive Officer, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam (JBPHH). He also served as the Director of Operations, 169 ADS, Wheeler, AAF, HI. His previous assignment was as the Commander, 169 ADS, Wheeler, AAF, HI.



#### EDUCATION

1995 ROCC System Technical Training Course, Tyndall AFB, FL  
1999 USAF Non-Commissioned Officer Prep Course, Correspondence  
2004 Bachelor of Arts in General Business Administration, University of Hawaii – West O'ahu  
2005 USAF Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, Correspondence  
2007 Academy of Military Science, McGhee Tyson ANGB, TN  
2008 Air Battle Manager Course, Tyndall AFB, FL  
2012 Squadron Officer School, Correspondence  
2016 Integrated Air and Missile Defense Course, Hurlburt Field, FL  
2019 Command and General Staff Officer Course, Fort Leavenworth, KS  
2020 Master of Science in Administration, Central Michigan University

#### ASSIGNMENTS

1. October 1995 – November 1995, Student, ROCC System Qualification, Tyndall AFB, FL
2. November 1995 – April 2002, ROCC System Journeyman, 169 ACWS, Wheeler AAF, HI
3. May 2002 – December 2006, Aerospace Control and Warning System Craftsman, 169 ACWS, Wheeler AAF, HI
4. January 2007 – February 2007, Student, Academy of Military Science, McGhee Tyson ANGB, TN
5. March 2007 – September 2007, Air Battle Manager, 169 ACWS, Wheeler AAF, HI
6. October 2007 – November 2008, Student, Air Battle Management Qualification, Tyndall AFB, FL
7. December 2008 – June 2017, Air Weapons Officer, Senior Director, and Mission Crew Commander, 169 ADS, Wheeler AAF, HI
8. July 2013 – January 2017, Standards and Evaluations Chief, 169 ADS, Wheeler AAF, HI
9. June 2017 – June 2018, Executive Officer, 154 Wing, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI
10. June 2018 – June 2019, Student, Command and General Staff Officer Course, Fort Leavenworth, KS

11. June 2019 – March 2021, Assistant Director of Operations, 169 ADS, Wheeler AAF, HI
12. March 2021 – April 2023, Director of Operations, 169 ADS, Wheeler AAF, HI
13. May 2023 – September 2025, Commander, 169 ADS, Wheeler AAF, HI
14. September 2025 – Present, Commander, Recruiting & Retention, HQ HIANG, HI

#### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

AETC Commander's Top Graduate, Undergraduate Air Battle Manager Training  
Honor Graduate, Air Surveillance Training

Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster  
Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters  
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters  
Combat Readiness Medal with thirteen oak leaf clusters  
Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters  
National Defense Service Medal with bronze star device  
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal  
Air Force Longevity Service with six oak leaf clusters  
Armed Forces Reserve Medal with two "M" devices and two silver hourglass devices  
Basic Military Training Honor Graduate  
Air Force Training Ribbon with one oak leaf cluster

#### **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Airman First Class June 15, 1995  
Senior Airman January 17, 1997  
Staff Sergeant July 11, 1999  
Technical Sergeant July 22, 2002  
Master Sergeant December 4, 2005  
Second Lieutenant February 16, 2007  
First Lieutenant February 16, 2009  
Captain February 16, 2011  
Major June 5, 2016  
Lieutenant Colonel February 1, 2023

(Current as of May 2026)