



CC-Air Ramstein

Allied Air Component Command Headquarters Ramstein

Public Information Office



Biography

Colonel Michael J. McCarthy, USA AF

Division Head A2

Colonel Michael J. McCarthy is the Chief of the Intelligence and Assessments Division, Allied Air Component Command Headquarters, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. He is responsible for all matters pertaining to intelligence assessments, targeting, planning, policy and programme development, exercises and training, and command and control systems for NATO's Air Component Command at Ramstein. He assumed his present position in July 2008.

Colonel McCarthy received his commission in 1986 from Officer Training School and subsequently attended intelligence officer technical training at Lowry Air Force Base, Colorado. During his first assignments to the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing at Homestead Air Force Base, Florida, he served as squadron intelligence officer and, subsequently, as chief of both the Intelligence Operations and Target Operations branches. In 1990, Colonel McCarthy was assigned to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, serving as a Watch Officer and, later, as Command Intelligence Briefer at Headquarters, US Air Forces in Europe.

In 1993, Colonel McCarthy was assigned to the Pentagon, where among other positions he served as the Senior Analyst for Russian Political and Military Affairs in the National Air Intelligence Center and Executive Officer to the Director of Intelligence Plans and Programs.

In 1997, Colonel McCarthy was transferred to US Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, for assignments as Plans and Exercises Officer and chief of the Central Asia Analysis Team. In 1999, Colonel McCarthy attended the US Marine Corps Command and Staff College in Quantico, Virginia.

Colonel McCarthy was deployed to the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia, in July 2001, where he served simultaneously as a UN Military Observer, Senior Liaison Officer in the UN Headquarters, and commander of assigned US forces. Following his return to the US, Colonel McCarthy was assigned to the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, Internal Affairs, as Country Director for Russia, Southeastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia, and Senior Executive Officer and Military Assistant to the Deputy Under Secretary.

In August 2005, he was chosen as an Air Force Fellow for Air University and spent a year as a National Defense Fellow at the Centre for International Relations, Queen's University, in Kingston Canada.

In 2006 Colonel McCarthy returned to US Central Command in Tampa, Florida, where he was responsible for all security cooperation activities in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan for US Central Command and the Department of Defense, as well as for providing political-military advice on Central and South Asia to the commander.

Colonel McCarthy is married to Brigadier General Muriel R. McCarthy, USAF, who currently serves as the Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, Air Force Reserve Command, Headquarters Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, DC. They have two Yorkshire Terriers, Webster and Watson.

Colonel McCarthy holds a Bachelor of Arts and several Masters of Arts as well as a diploma in Russian language. He is the author of various articles on military history, airpower and nuclear forces, and US-Russia relations, as well as a book on US security cooperation in Central Asia.

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