



# BIOGRAPHY



## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT MARY F. POLANCO

Chief Master Sergeant Mary F. Polanco is the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Air Force Resilience Directorate, Headquarters Air Force, Pentagon. She is the principal enlisted advisor to the Director, Air Force Resilience on all matters relating to the strategic planning, research and development, and implementation of Air Force resiliency programs to optimize Airman Performance.

Chief Polanco is originally from Plymouth, Pennsylvania, and enlisted in the United States Air Force in March 1999. After graduating Basic Military Training, she served as a Security Forces member during her first tour of duty. While there, she deployed to Al Jaber, Kuwait and Prince Sultan Air Base in support of Operation Southern Watch. In 2002, Chief Polanco cross-trained into the medical field as an Ophthalmic Technician, where she has served in various leadership positions for the Optometry clinics. In 2012, Chief Polanco was selected to be a Professional Military Education Instructor where she held positions ranging from Instructor-Trainer, to the Director of Operations, followed by the Director of Education. Chief Polanco then returned to the medical corps, serving as the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Aerospace Medicine Squadron Superintendent before being picked up for the unique opportunity to serve as an Enlisted Legislative Fellow. During her fellowship, she received instruction and hands-on experience in a full-time assignment on the staff of a United States Senator. Chief Polanco is accompanied by her husband, Jose and their two children, Aydia and Adrian Jose.



#### EDUCATION

- 1999 – Security Forces Apprentice Technical School Training, Lackland AFB, Texas
- 2002 – Optometry Technician Apprentice Technical School Training, Sheppard AFB, Texas
- 2003 – Airman Leadership School, Edwards AFB, California
- 2005 – Associate in Applied Science Criminal Justice, Community College of the Air Force
- 2006 – Personal Training Course Certification, Cooper Institute, Texas
- 2008 – Certified Paraoptometric Technician Certification, National American Optometric Association
- 2009 – Associate in Applied Science Ophthalmic Technician, Community College of the Air Force
- 2010 – Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Peterson AFB, Colorado
- 2011 – Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy Correspondence Course 14
- 2012 – Enlisted Professional Military Education Instructor Course, Maxwell-Gunter AFB, Alabama
- 2012 – Professional Managers Certificate, Community College of the Air Force
- 2013 – Associate in Applied Science Instructor of Technology, Community College of the Air Force
- 2013 – Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education Course, National Defense University, Virginia

2015 – Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy Advanced Course, United States Marine Corps, United States Marine Corps, Quantico, Virginia  
2015 – Marine Corps Martial Arts Program Tan Belt, United States Marine Corps, Quantico, Virginia  
2015 – Lance Corporals Leadership and Ethics Seminar Teach the Teacher, Seminar Manager Certification, United States Marine Corps, Quantico, Virginia  
2015 – Bachelor of Science in Leadership, Trident University International Cypress, California  
2017 – Air Force Medical Services Intermediate Executive Skills Seminar, San Antonio, Texas  
2018 – Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education Course Level II, National Defense University, Virginia  
2019 – Legislative Affairs Graduate Certificate, Government Affairs Institute, Georgetown University

#### **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. August 1999 – February 2001, Security Forces Apprentice, 305th Security Forces Squadron, McGuire AFB, New Jersey
2. February 2001 – November 2002, NCOIC Optometry Element, 95th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, Edwards AFB, California
3. December 2005 – January 2007, Optometry Technician, 51st Aerospace Medicine Squadron, Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea
4. January 2007 – January 2009, NCOIC Operational Optometry, 48th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom
5. January 2009 – February 2012, NCOIC Optometry Clinic, 22nd Aerospace Medicine Squadron, McConnell AFB, Kansas
6. February 2012 – January 2014, PME Instructor, Binnicker Professional Military Education Center, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii
7. January 2014 – December 2014, Director of Operations, Binnicker Professional Military Education Center, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii
8. December 2014 – February 2016, Director of Education, Binnicker Professional Military Education Center, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii
9. February 2016 – May 2016, Flight Chief, Optometry Clinic, 1st Special Operations Aerospace Medicine Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Florida
10. May 2016 – June 2018, Superintendent, 1st Special Operations Aerospace Medicine Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Florida
11. June 2018 – January 2020, Enlisted Legislative Fellowship, Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.
12. January 2020 – Present, Senior Enlisted Advisor, Integrated Resilience, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

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

Air Force Meritorious Service Medal (1 oak leaf cluster)  
Air Force Commendation Medal (4 oak leaf clusters)  
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal  
Korean Defense Medal

#### **OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS**

2000 Inspector General's Outstanding Performer for Nuclear Surety Inspection  
2001 Senior Airman Below the Zone  
2001 Outstanding Security Forces Staff Airman of the Year  
2011 Air Mobility Command Ophthalmic NCO of the Year  
2011 Inspector General's Outstanding Performer for Health Services Inspection  
2013 15th Wing Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year  
2017 15th Wing Staff Agency Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year  
2017 1st Special Operations Wing Lance P. Sijan recipient  
2017 Air Force Special Operations Command Medical Service SNCO Leadership Award Recipient

#### **EFFECTIVE DATE OF PROMOTION**

Chief Master Sergeant, September 1, 2019

(Current as of January 2020)