

621 CRG Gallant Unit Citation Ceremony



12 April 2023

JB McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst

321 CRS

521 CRS

621 CRS

621 CRSS

Sequence of Events

OPENING NARRATION

ARRIVAL OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY

PLAYING OF RUFFLES & FLOURISHES

NATIONAL ANTHEM

INVOCATION

INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

INTRODUCTION OF GALLANT UNIT CITATION

REMARKS BY PRESIDING OFFICER

PRESENTATION OF GALLANT UNIT CITATION &

PLACING OF STREAMER

CLOSING NARRATION

AIR FORCE SONG

DEPARTURE

Participants

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Presiding Official | Gen Mike Minihan <i>Commander, Air Mobility Command</i> |
| Commander of Troops | Col Angela Polsinelli <i>621 CRG/CD</i> |
| Guidon Bearer | CMSgt Timothy Farris <i>621 CRG/SEL</i> |
| Narrator | Capt Jacob Draszekiewicz <i>321 CRS/DOG</i> |
| National Anthem | SrA Matthew Porter <i>87 ABW/PA</i> |
| Invocation | Lt Col David Kahler <i>621 CRW/HC</i> |
| Proffer | SrA Sentiliano Belulaj <i>321 CRS/DOF</i> |

General Mike Minihan



Gen. Mike Minihan is Commander, Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. The command serves as U.S. Transportation Command's air component, executing the air mobility mission in support of the joint force, allies and partners with a fleet of nearly 1,100 aircraft. The command encompasses Eighteenth Air Force, the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, the 618th Air Operations Center, 17 wings and two groups, which provide rapid global mobility from more than 100 locations worldwide. Nearly 107,000 active-duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve Airmen and civilians comprise the air mobility Total Force, providing command and control of inter-theater and intra-theater airlift, air refueling, aeromedical evacuation, global air mobility support, and presidential and senior leader air transport in support of national interests.

Gen. Minihan entered the Air Force in April 1990 after receiving his commission through the ROTC program at Auburn University. He completed undergraduate pilot training in 1991 and served as an aircraft commander, instructor pilot and evaluator pilot in the C-130 Hercules. He has commanded in garrison, crisis and combat, and at the squadron, wing and task force levels. He also held numerous joint, combined and Air Force staff assignments. Prior to his current position, Gen. Minihan served as Deputy Commander for U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

Gen. Minihan is a command pilot with more than 3,400 flying hours and qualifications in C-130, KC-10, and C-32 aircraft.

EDUCATION

1989 Bachelor of Science, Economics, Auburn University, Ala.

1997 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

2002 Masters of Business Administration, Touro University, Vallejo, Calif.

2003 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2007 Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: command pilot

Flight hours: more than 3,400

Aircraft flown: T-37, T-38, C-130, KC-10, C-32

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Numerous Joint and Air Force decorations including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, three Legions of Merit, six Air Medals, and seven Aerial Achievement Medals.

Joint and Air Force organizational awards recognizing team excellence include: Joint Meritorious Unit Award

Meritorious Unit Award

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

Republic of Korea Cheonsu Medal

Order of Saint Maurice

Gallant Unit Citation

The 621st Contingency Response Group distinguished itself by extraordinary gallantry in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United States at Hamid Karzai International Airport, Kabul, Afghanistan from 15 August until 30 August 2021.

During this unprecedented seventeen day period, the 621st Contingency Response Group mobilized 87 Airmen across the Wing in less than 12 hours for employment into an airfield under attack by foreign terrorist groups in an effort to secure the safe evacuation of civilian and coalition personnel facing the hostile takeover of Afghanistan.

Within 24 hours of arrival, the group assumed tactical control of an additional 84 Airmen assigned to Air Forces Central Command and established essential services at the only airfield not under Taliban control all while exposed to extreme danger from mortars, sniper fire and ground attack.

Although only officially tasked to support up to four aircraft simultaneously, the group routinely worked up to 12 dissimilar coalition aircraft at a time, including 141 aircraft in one 24 hour period.

Furthermore, the team navigated an attack on the airfield that required relocation of the Tactical Operation Center in response to a suspected vehicle-borne improvised explosive device all while continuing airfield operations.

The unparalleled efforts of the group enabled 721 coalition missions and the safe evacuation of over 124,000 personnel, culminating in the largest evacuation airlift in United States history.

The professionalism, dedication to duty, and gallantry demonstrated by the members of the 621st Contingency Response Group and supporting Airmen reflect great credit upon themselves and the United States Air Force.

Gallant Unit Citation

BACKGROUND

The Gallant Unit Citation (GUC), is awarded to any Air Force or Space Force unit which distinguishes itself by extraordinary heroism while engaged in armed combat with an enemy force on or after 11 September 2001.

In March 2004, the Secretary of the Air Force approved the Gallant Unit Citation to recognize organizations for outstanding heroism in combat.

CRITERIA

Awarded to Air Force active duty, Reserve, and Air National Guard units for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy of the United States while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

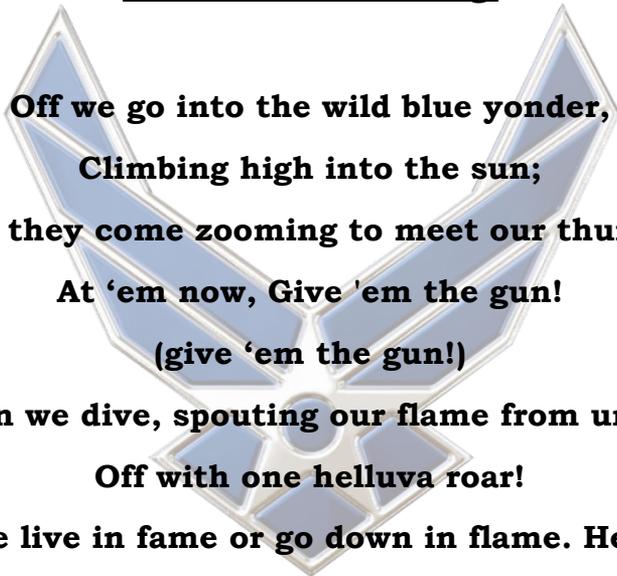
The GUC requires a lesser degree of gallantry, determination and esprit de corps than that required for the Presidential Unit Citation. Nevertheless, the unit must have performed with marked distinction under difficult and hazardous conditions in accomplishing its mission so as to set it apart from and above other units participating in the same conflict. The degree of heroism required is the same as that which would warrant award of the Silver Star which is awarded for gallantry and heroism of high degrees, including risk of life in action.

The GUC award will normally be earned by units that have participated in single or successive actions covering relatively brief time spans. Only on rare occasions will a unit larger than a group qualify for GUC. Although units larger than a group may submit, it will be extremely rare that a large organization will receive the GUC due to the degree of valor required. Extended periods of combat duty or participation in a large number of operational missions, either air or ground, is not sufficient.

621 CRG: HKIA



Air Force Song



**Off we go into the wild blue yonder,
Climbing high into the sun;
Here they come zooming to meet our thunder,
At 'em now, Give 'em the gun!
(give 'em the gun!)
Down we dive, spouting our flame from under,
Off with one helluva roar!
We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!**

U.S. AIR FORCE