

NEW AF BASIC TRAINING LEADER RETURNS TO HIS ROOTS by Mike Joseph



August 18, 2011 – Lackland AFB, Texas - The new **Air Force** Basic Military Training commander has a unique perspective when it comes to leading the airmen in his group.

According to archive research conducted by the 37th **Training Wing Office of History**, Lt. Col. **Glenn Palmer** is the first BMT commander who has also served in the enlisted corps.

Palmer was in Air Force Special Operations for 16 years, becoming a master sergeant as a combat controller before entering **Officer Training School**.

*Lt. Col. Glenn Palmer entered the Air Force in 1976.
USAF Photo*



He was commissioned in 1993, and will be promoted to colonel Aug. 31.

"When you come to a fork in the road, you take it," Palmer said his decision to leave the enlisted corps. "The fork presented itself and I took one of the forks; I went left instead of right.

"I try to take the insight from being enlisted and apply it to situations at hand or at least guide me. It certainly guides my life and the way I lead."

He laughingly calls the whole scenario "wild." "You come through here 35 years ago and say 'I'm doing four years and then I'm out,'" said Palmer, who assumed command of the 737th **Training Group** from Col. **Shane Courville** July 1.

"Sixteen years later, you decide to become an officer. Nineteen years after that, you're sitting (at Lackland) as the group commander where you started.

"It's just wild. I certainly never thought I was going to make colonel, and certainly never even considered I'd be the BMT group commander."

He said BMT has evolved since he came through a six-week program in 1976. Most noticeable are the concentration on building warrior skills, the Basic Expeditionary Airman **Skills Training** course and improvised explosive device training.

"The camaraderie and spirit de corps that's created by those things is amazing," Palmer said. "When I came through you did the confidence course, you pressed on, and graduated in six weeks.

"Chief Williams (Chief Master Sgt. **Kenneth Williams**, BMT superintendent) and I talk about it all the time. When we graduated, there might be a few parents here. Now 3,000-4,000 people are here for graduation.

That's truly amazing to me." Sometime next spring, Palmer will oversee the start of a historic transition in BMT when the first of four new Airman **Training Complexes** opens followed by a new dining/classroom facility.

NOTE: This online-only information was added to the CCT history after publication of The Eye of the Storm – A history of Combat Control Teams.

It's a time the new commander anxiously awaits.

"We'll get these fine men and women out of these old, dilapidated dorms," Palmer said. "I walked back through my old squadron and it's just exactly the same. It's 'Groundhog Day'; nothing has changed in 35 years.

"The dorms (the Recruiting Training and Housing facilities built in the 1960s) all look the same.

We need to get the trainees into some decent quarters. Once they're in the ATCs, we'll have less transit time to march from point A to point B and more time to focus on some of the basic skills," he added.

Palmer said he wants to continue the professional development program for military training instructors begun by his predecessor. His goal is to make sure MTIs are better prepared for career advancement from their four-year special duty assignment at BMT.

"It's an outstanding opportunity and challenge to be here," Palmer said. "It's an honor to command the flagship of the Air Force because I truly believe this is where it all begins."

Read more: <http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/article/New-AF-basic-training-leader-returns-to-his-roots-2077233.php#ixzz1VVMPdOL4>

LIEUTENANT COLONEL GLENN E. PALMER

Lieutenant Colonel Glenn E. Palmer is the Commander of Air Force Basic Military Training (BMT) at the 737th Training Group, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. He commands the Air Force's sole BMT group comprised of nine squadrons, more than 650 permanent party personnel, and a daily student load of more than 6,000. The group conducts all aspects of the Air Force's enlisted recruit training program, and ensures the orderly transition from civilian to military life for 45,000 Active Duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve non-prior service accessions annually. He is responsible for all aspects of BMT to include personnel processing, curriculum development, scheduling, job classification, resource management, supervision; including the care, professional development, performance and leadership of all officers, military training instructors and basic trainees.

Lt Col Palmer entered active duty in 1976 and served as an enlisted combat controller until 1993, when he received his commission through Officer Training School (OTS). His career has included assignments as an operations officer, major command Inspector General officer, executive officer at the headquarters level, and squadron commander. Lt Col Palmer was directly involved during the earliest planning stages of Operations URGENT FURY, ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM, and supported numerous contingency and humanitarian relief missions throughout Europe, Africa, Caribbean, and Central and South America. Prior to assuming his current position, he was the deputy chief of Concept Development and Experimentation (Skunk Works), HQ USAF, Pentagon, Wash., D.C.

EDUCATION

1992 Bachelor of Science (Summa Cum-Laude), Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL

1997 Squadron Officer School (Distinguished Graduate), Maxwell Air Force Base, AL

2002 Master of Arts in Organizational Sciences, The George Washington University, Wash., DC

2005 U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College, Quantico, VA

2006 Master of Military Science, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, AL

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ASSIGNMENTS

1. Sep 1976 - Oct 1976, Basic Military Training School, Lackland AFB, TX
2. Oct 1976 - Mar 1977, Student, Air Traffic Control School, Keesler AFB, MS
3. Apr 1977 - Jun 1979, Combat Control Operator, Pope AFB, NC
4. Jul 1979 - Aug 1981, Combat Control Operator, Rhein-Main AB, Germany
5. Aug 1981 - Dec 1984, Noncommissioned Officer In-Charge, Combat Control Team, Element Two, Hurlburt Field, FL
6. Dec 1984 - Dec 1988, Superintendent, Combat Control, Detachment 1, 1723d Combat Control Squadron, Rhein-Main AB, Germany
7. Dec 1988 - Nov 1992, Superintendent, Combat Control Requirements and Acquisitions; Chief, Standardization and Training, HQ Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, IL
8. Nov 1992 - Mar 1993, Student, Officer Training School, Medina Annex, Lackland AFB, TX
9. Jul 1993 - May 1996, Operations Officer, 437th Combat Control Squadron, Charleston AFB, SC
10. May 1996 - Mar 1999, Chief, Special Tactics Operations, Special Operations Command South, Corozal East, Republic of Panama
11. Mar 1999 - Jul 2000, Inspector General, Chief, Special Tactics Inspections, HQ AFSOC Hurlburt Field, FL
12. Jul 2000 - Jun 2002, Air Force Intern, HQ USAF, Washington, DC
13. Jul 2002 - Jul 2003, Chief, Special Operations Strategy and Issues, Directorate of Strategic Planning, DCS, Plans and Programs (HQ USAF), Pentagon, Washington, DC
14. Aug 2003 - Jun 2004, Executive Officer, Directorate of Strategic Planning, DCS, Plans and Programs (HQ USAF), Pentagon, Washington, DC
15. Jul 2004 - Jun 2005, Student, Marine Corps Command and Staff College, Quantico, VA
16. Jul 2005 - Jun 2006, Student, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, AL
17. Jun 2006 - Jun 2008, Commander, 823d Security Forces Squadron, Moody AFB, GA
18. Jun 2008 - Jul 2008, Strategist, Strategic Studies Group, Checkmate (HAF/CK), HQ USAF Pentagon, Washington, DC
19. Jul 2008 - Aug 2008, Senior Executive Officer, Deputy, Vice Chief of Staff, HQ USAF, Pentagon, Washington, DC
20. Aug 2008 - Aug 2010, Deputy Division Chief, Concept Development and Experimentation (Skunk Works), Directorate Operations and Plans, HQ USAF, Pentagon, Washington, DC
21. Aug 2010 - Jul 2011, Deputy Group Commander, 720th Special Tactics Group, Hurlburt Field,
22. Jul 2011 - Present, Commander, 737th Training Group, Lackland Air Force Base, TX

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Bronze Star with Valor (one oak leaf cluster)
Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal (five oak leaf clusters)
Joint Service Commendation Medal (two oak leaf clusters)
Air Force Commendation Medal (four oak leaf clusters)
Joint Service Achievement Medal (two oak leaf clusters)
Air Force Achievement Medal (two oak leaf clusters)

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Army Achievement Medal

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Master Parachutist, Master Military Freefall Parachutist

Parachute Jumps: 600+

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

1986 Airlift Association Young Leadership Award

1986 Air Mobility Command Combat Control Noncommissioned Officer of the Year

1988 United States Air Force Twelve Outstanding Airmen of the Year

1993 1st Honor Graduate, Officer Training School

1993 Air Mobility Command Junior Combat Control Officer of the Year

2003 HQ USAF, Directorate of Plans and Programs, Company Grade Officer of the Year

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant Mar 1993

First Lieutenant Mar 1995

Captain Mar 1997

Major Jul 2003

Lieutenant Colonel Sep 2007