



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

GENERAL RALPH E. "ED" EBERHART

Retired January 01, 2005

General Ralph E. "Ed" Eberhart is Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

General Eberhart entered the Air Force in 1968 as a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. His staff experience includes serving as Executive Officer to the Air Force Chief of Staff at Headquarters U.S. Air Force; Deputy Chief of Staff for Inspection, Safety and Security, Headquarters Tactical Air Command; Director for Programs and Evaluation, Headquarters U.S. Air Force; Director of Force Structure, Resources and Assessment, the Joint Staff; and Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Force. The general has also served as Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, Commander, Air Combat Command, Commander, Air Force Space Command, and as Commander in Chief, U.S. Space Command.



General Eberhart has commanded a flight, squadron, wing, numbered air force and two major commands, as well as one sub-unified command, two unified commands and one bi-national command. While Commander of the 363rd Tactical Fighter Wing during Operation Desert Shield, the unit established the theater's initial air-to-ground combat capability from a forward operating location. General Eberhart's international awards include the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Sacred Treasure, presented while serving as the Commander of U.S. Forces, Japan, by the Emperor of Japan, as well as the French Legion of Honor. A command pilot, General Eberhart has logged more than 5,000 hours, primarily in fighter and trainer aircraft, including 300 combat missions as a forward air controller in Vietnam.

EDUCATION

1968 Bachelor of Science degree in political science, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
 1973 Squadron Officer School, by correspondence
 1974 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
 1977 Master's degree in political science, Troy State University
 1987 National War College, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 1968 - August 1969, student, undergraduate pilot training, 615th Student Squadron, Air Training Command, Craig AFB, Ala.
2. February 1970 - December 1970, forward air controller, 20th Tactical Air Support Squadron, Pleiku Air

Base, South Vietnam

3. December 1970 - June 1974, T-38 instructor pilot, assistant flight commander, flight commander and headquarters squadron commander, 71st Flying Training Wing, Vance AFB, Okla.
4. June 1974 - June 1975, resource manager, Air Staff Training Program, Special Category Management Section, Rated Career Management Branch, Headquarters Air Force Military Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Texas
5. December 1975 - February 1977, F-4E flight commander and instructor pilot, 525th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Bitburg AB, West Germany
6. February 1977 - December 1978, F-4E instructor pilot, standardization and evaluation flight examiner, and assistant Chief, Standardization and Evaluation, 50th Tactical Fighter Wing, Hahn AB, West Germany
7. January 1979 - July 1980, action officer, Readiness Initiative Group, Directorate of Operations, later, Chief, Executive Committee, Air Force Budget Issues Team, Directorate of Plans, Congressional and External Affairs Division, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
8. July 1980 - June 1982, aide to the Commander in Chief, Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe, and Commander, Allied Air Forces Central Europe, Ramstein AB, West Germany
9. September 1982 - May 1984, Commander, 10th Tactical Fighter Squadron, later, Assistant Deputy Commander for Operations, 50th Tactical Fighter Wing, Hahn AB, West Germany
10. May 1984 - July 1986, executive officer to the Air Force Chief of Staff, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
11. July 1986 - July 1987, student, National War College, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.
12. July 1987 - October 1990, Vice Commander, later, Commander, 363rd Tactical Fighter Wing, Shaw AFB, S.C.
13. October 1990 - February 1991, Deputy Chief of Staff for Inspection, Safety and Security, Headquarters Tactical Air Command, Langley AFB, Va.
14. February 1991 - February 1994, Director, Directorate of Programs and Evaluation, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
15. February 1994 - June 1995, Director, Force Structure, Resources and Assessment, the Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.
16. June 1995 - June 1996, Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
17. June 1996 - June 1997, Commander, U.S. Forces, Japan, and Commander, 5th Air Force, Yokota AB, Japan
18. July 1997 - June 1999, Vice Chief of Staff, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
19. June 1999 - February 2000, Commander, Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Va.
20. February 2000 - April 2002, Commander in Chief, North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Space Command; Commander, Air Force Space Command; and Department of Defense Manager for Manned Space Flight Support Operations, Peterson AFB, Colo.
21. April 2002 - October 2002, Commander in Chief, North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Space Command, and Department of Defense Manager for Manned Space Flight Support Operations, Peterson AFB, Colo.
22. October 2002 - present, Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command, Peterson AFB, Colo.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command pilot

Flight hours: More than 5,000 hours

Aircraft flown: O-2, T-38, T-39, F-4E, RF-4C, F-16, F-15, C-21 and C-37

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster

Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster

Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster

Distinguished Flying Cross

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with 11 oak leaf clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal

Presidential Unit Citation
 Joint Meritorious Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters
 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with oak leaf cluster
 Combat Readiness Medal
 National Defense Service Medal with two bronze stars
 Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with two bronze stars
 Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze stars
 Southwest Asia Service Medal with bronze star
 Humanitarian Service Medal with bronze star
 Air Force Overseas Ribbon-Short
 Air Force Overseas Ribbon-Long with oak leaf cluster
 Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with seven oak leaf clusters
 Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon
 Air Force Training Ribbon
 Grand Cordon of the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Japan
 Legion of Honor (France)
 Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
 Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal
 Kuwait Liberation Medal (Government of Kuwait)

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Able Aeronaut Award, Pacific Air Forces
 General Jimmy Doolittle Award, Air Force Association
 Distinguished Achievement Award, AFA Tennessee Ernie Ford Chapter
 Member, Council of Foreign Relations
 Tom Lombardo Leadership Award, National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame
 Thomas D. White Space Award, AFA
 Air Force Order of the Sword, Air Force Space Command
 General Bernard A. Schriever Award, AFA
 General James V. Hartinger Award, National Defense Industrial Association, Rocky Mountain Chapter

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant June 5, 1968
 First Lieutenant Dec. 5, 1969
 Captain June 5, 1971
 Major Sept. 1, 1979
 Lieutenant Colonel Nov. 1, 1981
 Colonel Nov. 1, 1984
 Brigadier General March 1, 1991
 Major General July 1, 1993
 Lieutenant General July 1, 1995
 General Aug. 1, 1997

(Current as of February 2004)