

# THE 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**

## CHANGE OF COMMAND

MAJOR GENERAL  
**BARRY BLANCHARD**  
&  
BRIGADIER GENERAL  
**EDWARD H. EVANS JR.**



JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
AUDITORIUM  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI  
SUNDAY  
14 JULY 2024  
10:00 A.M.



## MAJOR GENERAL BARRY BLANCHARD

Major General Barry A. Blanchard is the Assistant Adjutant General and Commander, Mississippi Air National Guard. He is responsible to the Adjutant General for directing Air National Guard operations, formulating, developing, and coordinating all programs, policies,

and plans ensuring the mission readiness of the 172d Airlift Wing, 186th Air Refueling Wing, and the Combat Readiness Training Center.

General Blanchard was commissioned through the United States Air Force Academy in May 1992. He attended Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus Air Force Base and received his wings in August 1993. He then attended Graduate School at Texas A&M University earning a Master of Science degree in December 1994. He served eleven years active duty as a C-17A Instructor/Evaluator, Air Mobility Command and Air Education and Training Command, before joining the Mississippi Air National Guard. He currently has 19 years in the MSANG and has held command at all levels of the 172 AW. A Command/Evaluator pilot with more than 4400 hours in the C-17A, General Blanchard has participated in Operations SOUTHERN WATCH, ALLIED FORCE, ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, NEW DAWN, served two tours as Director of Mobility Forces supporting domestic hurricane relief, and served as Dual Status Commander JTF-MS supporting COVID operations in Mississippi. Prior to assuming his current position, he was the Chief of Staff, Mississippi Air National Guard, Jackson, Miss.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, Combat Readiness Medal, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Air Force Expeditionary Service ribbon and numerous other Federal and State awards.

Major General Blanchard and his wife, Judy, reside in Madison, Miss. and have two children, Jacob and Jessica.



## BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD H. EVANS JR.

Brig. Gen. Edward H. Evans, Jr. serves as the Chief of Staff, Mississippi Air National Guard, Joint Forces Headquarters, Jackson, Mississippi. He assists the commander and the Adjutant General in formulating, developing, and coordinating all programs, policies, and plans

ensuring the mission readiness of the 172nd Airlift Wing, 186th Air Refueling Wing, and the Combat Readiness Training Center.

General Evans received his commission in 1992 as a graduate of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Mississippi State University. He began his Air Force career as an active duty civil engineer before transferring to the Mississippi Air National Guard as a pilot candidate. After completing Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training and aircraft training, he returned to the 172nd Airlift Wing to fly the C-141B/C aircraft. He later served as a C17A Instructor Aircraft Commander and held various duties throughout the Operations and Mission Support Groups including a two year detail as Base Civil Engineer. He has commanded at the squadron, group and wing levels. General Evans has extensive wartime, contingency and aeromedical evacuation operational experience, including over 725 combat hours supporting Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM and NEW DAWN. Prior to assuming his current position, he was the A3 – Director of Operations, Mississippi Air National Guard.

His awards and decorations include Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air and Space Commendation Medal, Air and Space Achievement Medal, Air and Space Outstanding Unit Award, Combat Readiness Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and numerous other Federal and State awards.

Brigadier General Evans and his wife, Priscilla, reside in Celina, Texas and have three daughters, Victoria, Lauren and Julia.



## SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

ENTRANCE OF  
OFFICIAL PARTY

NATIONAL  
ANTHEM

INVOCATION

RECOGNITION  
OF FAMILY AND  
DIGNITARIES

HOST'S REMARKS

OUTGOING  
COMMANDER  
REMARKS

CHANGE OF  
COMMAND

INCOMING  
COMMANDER  
REMARKS

AIR FORCE SONG

DEPARTURE OF  
OFFICIAL PARTY

RECEPTION