

U.S. ARMY SONG

March along, sing our song, with the Army of the free.

Count the brave, count the true, who have fought to victory.

We're the Army and proud of our name!

We're the Army and proudly proclaim:

First to fight for the right,

And to build the Nation's might,

And the Army goes rolling along.

Proud of all we have done,

Fighting till the battle's won,

And the Army goes rolling along.

Then it's hi! hi! hey!

The Army's on its way.

Count off the cadence loud and strong;

For where'er we go,

You will always know

That the Army goes rolling along.

PROMOTION CEREMONY

in honor of

COLONEL

ANDREW S. RENDON

TO THE RANK OF

BRIGADIER GENERAL



OLD MAIN ACADEMIC CENTER
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY

25 JULY 2024

1:00 P.M.



BRIGADIER GENERAL ANDREW S. RENDON

Brig. Gen. Andrew S. Rendon serves as the Commanding General of the 66th Troop Command, Mississippi Army National Guard (MSARNG). He is responsible and accountable for the readiness, training, and development of all Soldiers within the formation and oversees the development and coordination of all policies, plans, and programs of the 66th Troop Command and all subordinate units.

Rendon has over 28 years of military service beginning nearly three decades ago after graduating from ROTC and branching as an Army Aviator. From 1998-2000, he served as a platoon leader and logistics officer for the 2-1 Aviation Regiment, Katterbach, Germany. In 2000, he was selected for company command, serving as commander, F Company, 1-212th Aviation Regiment, Fort Rucker, Alabama. Shifting over to the Mississippi National Guard, he served as the logistics officer for 1-185th Aviation Regiment and platoon leader, C Company, 1-114th Aviation Regiment in Tupelo. As a major, he served as the 185th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade (ECAB) communications officer and assistant operations officer. In 2008, he became the 1-185th battalion executive officer and, from 2009 to 2011, the commander of C Company and the 1-114th Aviation Regiment. From 2011-2012, he served as an aircraft maintenance officer in A Company, 1108th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group (TASMG) in Gulfport. From 2012- 2014 he served as the aviation officer in the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team in Tupelo. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 2014 and selected as one of four (Army-wide) commanders for A Company, 1108th TASMG. In 2016, he was selected to command the 1-185th Assault Helicopter Battalion. In 2019, he served as the plans officer for Joint Forces Headquarters, promoted to colonel, and accepted command of the 185th ECAB in Jackson. Following command, he served as the state aviation officer and chief of staff - Army. On 1 July 2024, he was appointed as Commander of the 66th Troop Command.

Rendon has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Mississippi, a Master of Public Policy and Administration from Mississippi State University, a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College, and a PhD from Mississippi State University. His military operational assignments include three deployments to Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, and one deployment supporting Operation Enduring Freedom to Camp Marmal, Afghanistan. His military education and training is an extensive list that includes the Army Airborne Course, pilot qualification courses for TH-67 Creek, UH-1 Huey, UH-60 Blackhawk, and LUH72 Lakota Helicopters including Maintenance Test Pilot and Instructor Pilot courses, U.S. Army Command and General Staff Course, Senior Operations, and the U.S. Army War College. His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, six Meritorious Service Medals, and numerous other federal and state awards. He has also earned the Senior Army Aviator and Parachutist badges and the order of St. Michael.

Rendon lives in Starkville, with his wife Hilary Rendon. They are the proud parents of Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Kyler Rendon and Ms. Sarah Rendon. His civilian career is at MSU where he serves as the Executive Director for Veteran and Military Affairs. His memberships include the National Guard Association of Mississippi, the National Guard Association of the United States (Lifetime Member), Army Aviation Association of America, Lifetime Member of the U.S. Army War College Alumni Association, member of the America College Personnel Association, and inductee, Pi Alpha Alpha, Public Administration.

GENERAL OFFICER HISTORY CODE OF DRESS

General Officers hold the highest operational and strategic authority levels within the military. The General Officer rank originated in the 16th century, delineating an officer of the highest rank in the armed forces. The term "General Officer" refers to a rank above colonel. Since the late medieval period, the adjutant general was affixed to officer designations to indicate relative superiority or an extended jurisdiction as Generals, Admirals, and Field Marshalls. The term general specifically defines a four-star General Officer; however, it is common practice to use this title when addressing all general officer grades.

Today, the Adjutants or Commanding Generals in the U.S. Army select General Officer candidates based on qualifications, education, performance, and experience. Following selection, the National Guard Bureau reviews candidates' packets, the Department of the Army boards the officers, and the Secretary of Defense recommends the list of candidates to the President of the United States. Once approved by the President, he will direct the official nomination for eligibility to the U.S. Senate for confirmation. Upon confirmation, constitutional law places time and vacancy limitations on the senior leader for promotion consideration.

Once promoted to General Officer, these leaders must maintain strict protocols for scheduling, appearances, ceremonies, and daily business. Within this "code of dress," Generals have unique kit items, stationaries, and uniform colors and accessories. The Brigadier General's personal colors are unfurled for display. Each Brigadier General officer is presented with his own Brigadier General officer flag. The flag has a four-foot hoist by three-foot hoist, by four-foot fly, with one, five-pointed star, indicating the rank of Brigadier General, on a blood red flag. This flag has always served as a symbol to our soldiers. When they see it, 'they think, the Brigadier General is here; all is well, follow him.' When looking at this blood red flag, he is to remember, that he is privileged to lead from the front. Hence, the General's flag generated the term "Flag Officer."

Another notable issue is a General's personal firearm. From the American Revolution through America's participation in World War I, General Officers procured their weapons and sidearms at a personal expense. It was not until 1943, in the middle of World War II, that the U.S. Army began equipping its Generals with standard-issue pistols. In 2017, the Sig Sauer M17 and M18 entered service as the new sidearm for the U.S. Army. General Officers are issued the M18. Each General's M18 possesses an exclusive and never duplicated General Officer (G.O.) serial number. Along with their sidearm, Generals receive a leather belt, gold Army buckle, and items needed to maintain their sidearm.



SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

OPENING REMARKS
CW5 Donny Dukes
MSNG Command Chief Warrant Officer

NATIONAL ANTHEM
41st Army Band

INVOCATION
CH (COL) Cregg Puckett
MSNG Command Chaplain

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS
CW5 Donny Dukes

INTRODUCTION OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS
COL Andrew Rendon

REMARKS
Dr. Mark Keenum
MSU President

OFFICIAL REMARKS
MG Janson D. Boyles
Adjutant General of Mississippi

PROMOTION
MG Janson D. Boyles
Rendon Family

OATH OF OFFICE
MG Janson D. Boyles

FLAG & PISTOL PRESENTATION
MG Janson D. Boyles

REMARKS
BG Andrew S. Rendon
Commander, 66th Troop Command

CLOSING REMARKS
CW5 Donny Dukes

ARMY SONG
41st Army Band

BENEDICTION
SFC (RET) Eddie Scales

RECEPTION FOLLOWING CEREMONY