



Aviation Branch Send-Off For the Class of 2021



**United States Military Academy
West Point, New York
April 16, 2021**



Major General David J. Francis
Commanding General
USAACE and Fort Rucker

Maj. Gen. David J. Francis is a native of Pennsylvania and received his commission from Gannon University, Erie, Pennsylvania.

Francis has served in a series of command and staff positions. After graduation from AVOBC and flight school, he served as an Assault Helicopter Platoon Leader and Infantry Liaison Officer in the 2nd Battalion (Assault), 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Stanley, Korea from 1990 to 1991. He then completed the Aviation Officer Advanced Course and proceeded to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. From 1992 to 1996, he served as an Assault Helicopter Platoon Leader, Battalion Flight Operations Officer, Battalion Adjutant and Assault Helicopter Company Commander in 2nd Battalion (Assault), 82nd Aviation Brigade, Fort Bragg. After company command, he moved to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California. From 1996 to 1998, he served as an Assault Helicopter Company Trainer and S3 Trainer. From 1998 to 2001, he served as a Small Group Instructor, Aviation Captain's Career Course and Battalion S3, 1-145th Aviation Regiment, Fort Rucker. From 2002 to 2004, he served as a Battalion Executive Officer, 2nd Battalion (Assault), 25th Aviation Regiment, Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii, and Task Force S3, Task Force Diamondhead, Kandahar, Afghanistan. Francis assumed duties as the Joint Task Force Wings (25th Aviation Brigade) S3 in October 2004 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. From June 2005 to 2007, he served as the Chief of Joint Task Force Certification, J7, United States Pacific Command at Camp Smith, Hawaii. From December 2007 to October 2010, Francis commanded 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment (Task Force Diamond Head) and completed a combat deployment in support of OIF 09-11. From October 2010 until June 2011, he served as the Chief of Staff, 25th Infantry Division Rear at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Francis attended the U.S. Army War College from July 2011 to June 2012. He commanded the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade from July 2012 to May 2014 and deployed the brigade to Regional Command East, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He then served as the Deputy Commander for the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence at Fort Rucker from May 2014 to June 2016. From June 2016 to June 2017 he served as the Deputy Commanding General (Support), 2nd Infantry Division (Combined), Eighth Army, Republic of Korea. Francis was the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center/Director of Army Safety at Fort Rucker from June 2017 to June 2018. He most recently served as the Director, Army Aviation, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7 in Washington, DC.

Francis holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Gannon University, a master's of Business Administration from Touro University and a master's degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He is a graduate of the Aviation Officer Basic Course, the Initial Entry Rotary Wing course, the Jumpmaster Course, the Aviation Officer Advanced Course, the United States Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College.

Events Schedule

Social Begins **1700**

Opening Remarks **1715**

COL Richard V. Melnyk

Guest Speaker **1730**

MG David J. Francis

Dinner and Awards **1815**

**Conclusion of Formal Event/
Social Time** **1915**

Thanks to our Special Guests:

MG David J. Francis

Co-sponsored by:

