



Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve

# MEDIA GUIDE

*2014-2023*

ONE MISSION, MANY NATIONS

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# Maj. Gen. Matthew W. McFarlane

**Commander, Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve**

Major General Matthew W. McFarlane is the Commanding General, Combined Joint Task Force — Operation Inherent Resolve. A native of Burke, Virginia, he began his military career as an infantry officer in 1992 upon graduating from James Madison University with honors.

His DoD career includes commanding at every military echelon- ranging from the leadership of 135 to 65,000 Service Members in both conventional and special operations units. Major General McFarlane has served at a variety of national and international duty stations from the continental United States to Italy, Alaska, and Hawaii. His operational and combat experience includes leading Soldiers in Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

As a General Officer, Major General McFarlane served as the Deputy Commanding General (Operations) in the 82d Airborne Division, the Senior Military Assistant for the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Commanding General of the 4th Infantry Division and Fort Carson, CO, and the Deputy Commanding General for the U.S. Army (USARPAC.)

Major General McFarlane holds a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from James Madison University and Master's Degrees in Policy Management from Georgetown University, Management from Webster University, and National Security and Strategic Studies from the National War College. He has also completed the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Fellows program, Seminar 21.

Major General McFarlane is a recipient of numerous military awards and decorations for actions in both combat and garrison environments to include- but are not limited to: the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, three bronze star medals, and the Combat Infantryman Badge with star. His accomplishments and training accolades also include: the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Master Parachutist Badge, and the Ranger Tab.

He is also a Distinguished Member of three elite Infantry Units, to include: 75th Ranger Regiment, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, and the 503d Infantry Regiment (Airborne). Major General McFarlane is married and has two grown sons.

# Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Bohannon

**Command Senior Enlisted Leader, Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve**

Command Sergeant Major Eric Bohannon was born in Louisville, Kentucky, and graduated from Anchor Bay High School in June 1998 in New Baltimore, Michigan. After high school, Bohannon enlisted in the U.S. Army in February 2000 as an infantryman, and attended One Station Unit Training, Airborne School, and the Ranger Indoctrination Program at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Command Sgt. Maj. Bohannon's first assignment was 2nd Ranger Battalion, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, where he served as an Ammunition Bearer to Ranger Rifle Platoon Sergeant. In the winter of 2009, he transferred to Fort Benning, Georgia, where he was assigned to the Ranger Special Troops Battalion, and served as the Small Unit Ranger Tactics (SURT) NCO in charge with a follow-on assignment to 3rd Ranger Battalion, where he served as an assistant operations NCO and Alpha Company 1st sergeant. In July 2015, Bohannon took responsibility of the 75th Ranger Regiment Headquarters and Headquarters Company and served as the company 1st sergeant for 15 months. After being selected for sergeant major, he was reassigned to 3rd Ranger Battalion where he served as the battalion operation sergeant major. His most recent assignment was battalion command sergeant major for 2-508 Parachute Infantry Regiment (2Fury), 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division where he has served for the two years. Bohannon has deployed 14 times; five combat deployments to Iraq and nine combat deployments to Afghanistan.

His military education includes: Airborne School, Ranger Indoctrination Program, Ranger Course, 75th Regimental Master Breacher Course, Mountain Warfare Course, Jumpmaster Course, Pathfinder Course, Ranger Assessment Selection Program 2, Joint Special Operations Senior Enlisted Advisor Course and all commensurate NCO Education System courses. Bohannon is currently pursuing a Bachelor's of Science degree from Norwich University.

Command Sgt. Maj. Bohannon's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star with Valor device, Bronze Star (5th award), Meritorious Service Medal (3rd award), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (5th award), Army Achievement Medal (7th award), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal (6th award), National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Service Medal (2nd award), Iraqi Service Medal (3rd award), Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (5th award), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (3rd award), the Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Parachute Badge, Senior Parachute Badge, Master Parachute Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Ranger Tab, Korean Basic Airborne Wings, and the Order of Saint Maurice.

# Brigadier Karl Harris

**Deputy Commanding General, Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve**

Brigadier Karl Harris was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1994.

The next 10 years consisted of a variety of regimental posts, including troop commands, commanding the Army's Ethnic Minorities Recruiting Team (EMRT), commando and military parachutist courses, service in Northern Ireland as an intelligence officer, and Adjutant.

Promoted to Major in 2004, he fulfilled brigade- and divisional-level staff roles, including deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Battery command followed, deploying with the Battery to Afghanistan on Operation HERRICK. He returned to the staff, working in the UK's Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) J3 Operations Division, and deployed to Afghanistan again. In 2011 he served in United States Central Command, as Military Assistant to the Senior British Military Adviser.

On promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, Brigadier Harris completed the Advanced Command & Staff Course, graduating with a Masters in Defence Studies. He then joined Joint Forces Command and was responsible, on behalf of the Vice Chief of Defence Staff, for formulating a strategy to improve Defence's capacity to learn from experience. He commanded the 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment Royal Artillery during 2015 to 2017, deploying a battery on operations and preparing the Regiment as part of NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force. He deployed to Iraq in 2017 for a year as the United Kingdom's Special Defence Adviser to the Ministry of Peshmerga Affairs, supporting the Kurdistan Regional Government's nascent Peshmerga Reform Programme. A return to PJHQ as Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff J3 Operations followed (2018-2020), then a year of professional development at the Royal College of Defence Studies, after which he took post as the Deputy Commanding General of the Operation INHERENT RESOLVE Combined Joint Task Force.

Away from his principal roles, Brigadier Harris is extremely proud to have set up then led the British Army's Black Asian and Minority Ethnic Network for six years (now the Army Multicultural Network). His EMRT, family's and others' experiences have fueled his determination to support the British Army's drive to be an exemplary, representative and inclusive multicultural Armed Force. He is married, with two adult daughters and a teenage son.

# Brig. Gen. Jeffrey T. Schreiner

**Chief of Staff, Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve**

Brigadier General Jeffrey Schreiner is the Chief of Staff, Combined Joint Task Force-Operation INHERENT RESOLVE, U.S. Central Command. He oversees a corps-level headquarters staff across multiple locations in the CENTCOM area of responsibility to achieve commanders' objectives in the fight against the Islamic State group of Iraq and Syria. Brigadier General Schreiner earned his commission from the Air Force Academy in 1996. He has served multiple operational, training, and staff assignments and logged more than 4000 hours in the B-2A, B-52H, T-38A, and T-52A aircraft. His notable educational and staff assignments include the US Air Force Weapons School, a fellowship at the Stimson Center, Washington D.C. and duties as a Battle Watch Commander and Chief of Nuclear Operations at US Strategic Command in Omaha, Nebraska. Brigadier General Schreiner commanded the 13th Bomb Squadron and later the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman AFB, Missouri, home to the world's only stealth bomber wing. He also served as the vice commander of the "Grand Slam Wing," 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. Brigadier General Schreiner is a command pilot with 294 combat hours in multiple platforms supporting both Operation Inherent Resolve and Enduring Freedom.

## EDUCATION

1996 Bachelor of Science, Political Science, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.

2002 Master of Business Administration, Webster University, Mo.

2004 United States Air Force Weapons School, Nellis AFB, Nev.

2006 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence

2009 Master of Leadership and Counseling, University of Colorado—Colorado Springs

2015 National Defense Fellow, Stimson Center, Washington, D.C

## ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 1996 - September 1997, Student, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, Laughlin AFB, Texas

2. September 1997 - February 1998, Student, Pilot Instructor Training, Randolph AFB, Texas

3. February 1998 - May 2000, T-38 Instructor Pilot, 87th Flight Training Squadron, Laughlin AFB, Texas

4. May 2000 - November 2001, T-38 Instructor/Evaluator pilot and B-2A Upgrade Student, 394th Combat Training Squadron, Whiteman AFB, Mo.
5. November 2001- July 2004, T-38 and B-2 Instructor/Evaluator Pilot, Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, 393d Bomb Squadron, Whiteman AFB, Mo.
6. July 2004 - December 2004, Student, United States Air Force Weapons School, Nellis AFB, Nev.
7. December 2004 – July 2006, Chief of Weapons and Tactics and Assistant Director of Operations, 393d Bomb Squadron, Whiteman AFB, Mo.
8. July 2006 – October 2007, Assistant Director of Operations, 325th Weapons Squadron, Whiteman AFB, Mo.
9. October 2007 – May 2008, Assistant Director of Operations/Chief of Mission Planning Cell, 509th Operations Support Squadron, Whiteman AFB, Mo.
10. May 2008 – May 2009, Student, University of Colorado—Colorado Springs, Colo.
11. May 2009 – June 2011, Air Officer Commanding, Cadet Squadron 25, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.
12. June 2011 – June 2012, Chief of Safety, 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman AFB, Mo.
13. June 2012 – June 2014, Commander, 13th Bomb Squadron, Whiteman AFB, Mo.
14. June 2014 – June 2015, National Defense Fellow, Stimson Center, Washington, D.C.
15. June 2015 – June 2016, Branch Chief, Air Delivered Capabilities, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, Neb.
16. June 2016 – June 2017, Division Chief, Conventional Global Strike, Joint Functional Component Command for Global Strike, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, Neb.
17. June 2017 – July 2018, Vice Wing Commander, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar
18. July 2018 – May 2019, Battle Watch Commander, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, Neb.
19. May 2019 – June 2021, Commander, 509th Bomber Wing, Whiteman AFB, Mo.
20. Jun 2021 – May 2022, Chief of Nuclear Operations, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, Neb.
21. May 2022 – Present, Chief of Staff, Combined Joint Task Force – Operation INHERENT RESOLVE, Union III, Iraq

## **FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Rating: Command Pilot



Flight hours: More than 4,000 and 294 combat hours

Aircraft flown: B-2A, B-52H, T-38A, T-52A, and T-37

#### MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Medal

Aerial Achievement Medal

Joint Service Achievement Medal

Combat Readiness Medal with two oak leaf clusters

#### **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant May 29, 1996

First Lieutenant May 29, 1998

Captain May 29, 2000

Major April 1, 2006

Lieutenant Colonel Dec. 1, 2010

Colonel March 1, 2017

Brigadier General Frocked



Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve

# FACT SHEET

*2014-2023*

ONE MISSION, MANY NATIONS

## **Mission of Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve**

Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve *Advises, Assists and Enables* partnered forces until they can independently defeat Daesh in designated areas of Iraq and Syria, in order to set conditions for long-term security cooperation frameworks.

Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve is in Iraq and Syria to support the Government of Iraq and our Syrian partners as they secure the enduring defeat of Daesh. CJTF-OIR is the military component of a Global Coalition of 77 nations and 5 international organizations, who remain committed to the enduring defeat of Daesh in Iraq and Syria. CJTF-OIR is operating in Iraq at the request of the Government of Iraq and in Syria in support of lasting political settlement based on UNSCR. 2254.

Eight years ago, Daesh controlled an area of approximately 110,000 square kilometers; an area that included Raqqa, Mosul, Ramadi and Fallujah. By 2019, they had suffered a complete reversal, losing all that territory, leading to the liberation of the last of almost 8 million people who had been under their oppressive control. While Daesh have been territorially defeated, their leadership degraded and their ideology widely condemned, they still pose a threat. The remnants remain active, funding themselves through criminal activity. They still have supporters in Iraq and Syria who continue to endorse the spread of violence across the globe, and who seek to regain their previous territory. A combination of civilian-led stabilization and military pressure is still needed to ensure this does not happen.

Iraqi Security Forces and our partners in Syria have shown great dedication and commitment in defeating Daesh and are increasingly conducting independent operations to provide security for local governance and stabilization activities. This has allowed the Coalition to better focus its efforts on the needs of our partner forces, supporting the parts of their military capability that are oriented towards dismantling Daesh's leadership, finances and global network. CJTF-OIR has supported our partners as they have done so, providing equipment, technical advice, advanced surveillance and air support. As our partners' capacity has grown, CJTF-OIR has focused on supporting the parts of their military capability that are oriented towards dismantling Daesh's leadership, finances and global network.

The mission of the Coalition has shifted from a mission of combat to one of support for our partner forces through advising, assisting and enabling at the operational and strategic level. CJTF-OIR works closely with local, regional and international actors in Iraq, and designated areas of Syria, to help bring stability to conflict affected areas and to work towards enduring security partnerships.

The Coalition remains steadfast in our commitment to supporting our partners in Iraq and Syria as they secure the enduring defeat of Daesh.

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[www.inherentresolve.mil](http://www.inherentresolve.mil)

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Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve

# HISTORY

*2014-2023*

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## History of Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve

On 17 October 2014, the Department of Defense formally established Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve in order to formalize ongoing military actions against the rising threat posed by ISIS in Iraq and Syria.

### 2013

Rise of ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham), also referred to as Da'esh. Taking advantage of a lawless environment fueled by sectarian strife, ISIS ascended from relative obscurity in 2013 to claim it had created an Islamic caliphate. Organized around an extremist socio-political ideology, ISIS acquired conventional weapons, established sizeable-armed formations, and took control of large areas within Iraq and Syria, perpetrating atrocities that shocked the world. Da'esh has been used as a way of challenging the legitimacy of the terror group due to negative connotations of the word. Da'esh is essentially an Arabic acronym formed from the initial letters of the group's previous name in Arabic - "al-Dawla al-Islamiya fil Iraq wa alSham". Although it does not mean anything as a word in Arabic, it sounds unpleasant and the group's supporters object to its use. Da'esh also sounds similar to an Arabic verb that means to tread underfoot, trample down, or crush something.

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### 2014

In June, the security situation in Iraq had deteriorated and Iraqi cities of Mosul and Tikrit fell to ISIS control. Department of Defense designated Army Central Command as Joint Forces Land Component Command for conduct of operations in Iraq. This designation established the first operational headquarters since departure of U.S. troops from the region in 2011. On September 17, 2014, DoD re-designated Army Central Command as Combined Forces Land Component Command, which ultimately led to formal establishment of Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve, meaning that the world community joined the fight against ISIS. Currently, CJTF-OIR is the military component of a global Coalition of 77 nations and 5 international organizations who are operating in Iraq at the request of the Government of Iraq and in Syria in

support of a lasting political settlement based on UN Security Council Resolution 2254.

### *2014-2015*

DoD formally established CJTF-OIR on October 17, 2014, to provide mission command of the defeat-ISIS fight. CJTF-OIR took the fight to ISIS via air operations. Phase I, Degrade, was led by the first commander of CJTF-OIR, Lt. Gen. James Terry. CJTF-OIR conducted strikes against Da'esh to blunt their expansion into Iraq and to begin to reduce their combat effectiveness. Defensive and offensive operations rapidly matured with the rescue of innocent Yazidi victims trapped on Sinjar Mountain, the recapture of the Mosul and Haditha dams, and the defense of Baghdad and Kirkuk.

The second commander Lt. Gen. Sean McFarland of III Armored Corps, assumed authority of CJTF-OIR from Army Central Command, on September 22, 2015. CJTF-OIR vigorously increased pressure on ISIS and shaped the battlefield for the liberation of terrain from ISIS control. Coalition fires targeted ISIS leadership and infrastructure. Deliberate and dynamic precision airstrikes targeted ISIS economic infrastructure, significantly degrading its ability to govern. CJTF-OIR transitioned from Phase I to Phase II by the end of 2015.

### *2015-2016*

During Phase II, Counterattack, CJTF-OIR supported Iraqi Security Forces and Partner Forces in Syria as they attacked to liberate territory and people under the control of Da'esh. The third commander of CJTF-OIR XVIII Airborne Corps, commanded by Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend, assumed authority of CJTF-OIR from III Armored Corps, on 21 August 2016. CJTF-OIR seized the strategic airfield at Qayyarah, positioning Coalition forces within striking distance of the ISIS-controlled city of Mosul. Following a brief pause, Iraqi Security Forces, supported by Coalition fires, began the ground battle for East Mosul on October 17, 2016. Iraqi Security Forces and Partner Forces in Syria liberated the two capitols of the self-proclaimed caliphate; Raqqah in Syria on July 17, 2017 and Mosul in Iraq by July 20, 2017.

### *2017-2020*

During Phase III, Defeat, CJTF-OIR conducted strikes in support of decisive battles against Da'esh. Fourth commander of CJTF-OIR, III Armored Corps, commanded by Lt. Gen. Paul Funk II, assumed authority of CJTF-OIR from XVIII Airborne Corps, on September 5, 2017. Iraqi Security Forces and Syrian Democratic Forces freed 155 villages, the cities of Hawijah, Al Qaim, Anah, Rawah, Raqqah, Dashisha, and much of eastern Dayr Az Zawr province.

Iraq declared victory over ISIS in that country on December 9, 2017, validated by largely peaceful elections for the Iraqi Parliament on May 12, 2018.

Additionally, the Iraqi Security Forces and Syrian Democratic Forces, working together, cleared all but the last 200 square kilometers of the Middle Euphrates River Valley. April 2018 was end of major combat in Iraq. Fifth commander of CJTF-OIR, XVIII Airborne Corps, commanded by Lt. Gen. Paul LaCamera, assumed authority of CJTF-OIR from III Armored Corps, on September 14, 2018. Increases in operational tempo, training and support to Iraqi Security Forces and Syrian Democratic Forces provided the foundation for broader strategic success. Train and equip funds provided necessary assets and capabilities to achieve increasingly higher levels of partner participation. With comprehensive and consistent Coalition support, Partner Forces steadily gained confidence needed to fight and win against ISIS. March 23, 2019, marked the end of ISIS control of any physical territory; culmination of a five-year fight; and ISIS reduced to an underground organization; its aspirations for a global caliphate laid to rest, as Da'esh was militarily defeated.

The sixth commander of CJTF-OIR III Armored Corps, commanded by Lt. Gen. Robert "Pat" White, assumed authority of CJTF-OIR from XVIII Airborne Corps, on September 14, 2019. Previously as Maj. Gen. White, he served with CJTF-OIR as commander of Combined Forces Land Component Command during July 2017 to March 2018. CJTF-OIR consolidated gains from 2019. Coalition and Partner Forces continued operations in Syria to target Da'esh smuggling, finance, media, and logistics networks. In Syrian airspace and along highways, Coalition de-conflicted operations with regional military forces. Throughout 2019, Coalition focused on Build Partner Capacity program to enhance Iraqi security capabilities through training, mentoring, and equipping our partner security forces.

## *2020*

During Phase IV, Support Stabilization, CJTF-OIR provides security, planning, and required support to the Government of Iraq and appropriate authorities in Syria. On July 2, 2020, Task Force Iraq of CJTF-OIR transitioned to Military Advisor Group, as part of a new approach to support Iraqi Security Forces defeat Da'esh operations. Coalition advisor teams provide specialized planning mentorship to Iraqi Security Forces directorates overseeing operations, logistics, intelligence, and other military functions. Due to Iraqi Security Forces success in the campaign against Da'esh, Coalition adjusted its positioning and focus in Iraq. These military movements have been long-planned in coordination with Government of Iraq. On July 25, 2020, Coalition transferred the upgraded training site at Besmayah, Iraq, to ISF. This was the seventh base transferred to Iraqi Security Forces, as part of an ongoing partnership between



Iraqi Security Forces and anti-ISIS international military Coalition. On August 23, 2020, Coalition transferred the base at Taji, Iraq, to ISF. CJTF-OIR continues to relocate and consolidate personnel and equipment from Iraqi bases throughout 2020, in cooperation with Government of Iraq. Iraqi Security Forces increasingly conducts independent operations in the fight against Da'esh and defense of their homeland including the 2020 series of operations "Heroes of Iraq," in which they have cleared thousands of kilometers to capture enemy fighters and equipment.

The seventh commander of CJTF-OIR, Lt. Gen Paul T. Calvert, assumed authority of CJTF-OIR, on September 14, 2019.

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Maj. Gen. John W. Brennan, assumed command from Calvert on Sept. 9, 2021.

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Brennan transferred command to Maj. Gen. Matthew McFarlane on Sept. 8, 2022.

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20200903 This history of CJTF-OIR was adapted from several unclassified sources, for CJTF-OIR change-of-command ceremony 2020, compiled by COL Christopher Eng, CJTF-OIR Historian, <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/7mhd>

-- CJTF-OIR Campaign Design. <https://www.inherentresolve.mil/campaign/>

-- CJTF-OIR History 2014-2017. [https://www.inherentresolve.mil/Portals/14/Documents/Mission/HISTORY\\_17OCT2014-JUL2017.pdf?ver=2017-07-22-095806-793](https://www.inherentresolve.mil/Portals/14/Documents/Mission/HISTORY_17OCT2014-JUL2017.pdf?ver=2017-07-22-095806-793)

-- CJTF-OIR History from Change-of-command ceremony 2018.

-- CJTF-OIR History from CJTF-OIR Historian's portion of Joint Staff Orientation brief.

-- Definition of Da'esh from multiple sources.

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MISSION,  
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NATIONS



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