

Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, U.S. Army

Commander, International Security Assistance Force

Commander, U.S. Forces Afghanistan



U.S. Army Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal is the Commander, International Security Assistance Force and Commander, U.S. Forces Afghanistan. He previously served as Director, Joint Staff from August 2008 to June 2009 and as Commander, Joint Special Operations Command from 2003 to 2008. He assumed his current assignment June 15, 2009.

Gen. McChrystal graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York in 1976 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Army. His initial assignment was to C Company, 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82d Airborne Division, serving as weapons platoon leader from November 1976 to February 1978, as rifle platoon leader from February 1978 to July 1978, and as executive officer from July 1978 to November 1978.

In November 1978, Gen. McChrystal enrolled as a student in the Special Forces Officer Course at the Special Forces School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Upon completing the course in April 1979, he remained at Fort Bragg as commander of Detachment A, A Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) until June 1980, when he attended the Infantry Officer Advanced Course at the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia until February 1981.

In February 1981, Gen. McChrystal moved to South Korea as intelligence and operations officer (S-2/S-3) for the United Nations Command Support Group—Joint Security Area. He reported to Fort Stewart, Georgia, in March 1982 to serve as training officer in the Directorate of Plans and Training, A Company, Headquarters Command. He moved to 3d Battalion, 19th Infantry, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) in November 1982, where he commanded A Company before becoming battalion operations officer (S-3) in September 1984.

Gen. McChrystal moved to 3d Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, as battalion liaison officer in September 1985, became commander of A Company in January 1986, served again as battalion liaison officer in May 1987, and finally became battalion operations officer (S-3) in April 1988, before reporting to the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, as a student in the Command and Staff Course in June 1989. After completing the course in June 1990, he was assigned as Army Special Operations action officer, J-3, Joint Special Operations Command until April 1993, in which capacity he deployed to Saudi Arabia for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

From April 1993 to November 1994, Gen. McChrystal commanded the 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division; then commanded the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment,

from November 1994 to June 1996. After a year as a senior service college fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, he moved up to command the entire 75th Ranger Regiment from June 1997 to August 1999, then spent another year as a military fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Promoted to brigadier general on January 1, 2001, Gen. McChrystal served as assistant division commander (operations) of the 82d Airborne Division from June 2000 to June 2001, including duty as Commander, Coalition/Joint Task Force Kuwait in Camp Doha, Kuwait. From June 2001 to July 2002 he was chief of staff of XVIII Airborne Corps, including duty as chief of staff of Combined Joint Task Force 180, the headquarters formation which directed all Operation Enduring Freedom operations in Afghanistan.

After serving in the Pentagon as a member of the Joint Staff, Gen. McChrystal commanded the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) for five years, serving first as Commanding General, Joint Special Operations Command, from September 2003 to February 2006, and then as Commander, Joint Special Operations Command/Commander, Joint Special Operations Command Forward, from February 2006 to August 2008. He was promoted to lieutenant general on February 16, 2006. Gen. McChrystal took the helm as director of the Joint Staff in August 2008.

Gen. McChrystal's decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal; the Defense Superior Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster; the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters; the Bronze Star; the Defense Meritorious Service Medal; the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters; the Army Commendation Medal; the Army Achievement Medal; the Expert Infantryman Badge; the Master Parachutist Badge; the Ranger Tab; the Special Forces Tab; and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Military Academy, a Master of Arts degree in national security and strategic studies from the United States Naval War College, and a Master of Science degree in international relations from Salve Regina University.