

Aviation Center of Excellence



**Flight School
Graduation
Ceremony**



AH-64
APACHE

UH-60
BLACK HAWK



CH-47
CHINOOK

C-12
HURON



Flight School Class 26-024

October 1, 2026



**UNITED STATES ARMY
AVIATION CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
FORT RUCKER, ALABAMA**

Order of Ceremony

Welcome..... Master of Ceremony

*** Invocation.....** Chaplain

*** *National Anthem*.....** Ceremonial Support Services

Music by John Stafford Smith, 1780

Lyrics by Francis Scott Key, 1814

Adopted as the National Anthem of the United States, 1931

Introduction of Guest Speaker..... LTC Andrew M. Bartlett

Commander

1st Battalion

223rd Aviation Regiment

Fort Rucker, Alabama

Address..... CW5 Patrick J. Burg

Command Chief Warrant Officer

1st Aviation Brigade

Fort Rucker, Alabama

Announcement of Graduates..... Master of Ceremony

Presentation of Wings.....LTC Bartlett

**** Above The Best, Aviation Branch Song**

Music and lyrics by Jo Johnston 1987

**** The Army Goes Rolling Along, The Army Song**

Music by John Phillip Sousa, 1917

Lyrics by Harold W. Arberg, 1956

Conclusion..... Master of Ceremony

** Please stand. Gentlemen, remove your headdress for the National Anthem.*

*** Lyrics on back cover.*

Guest Speaker

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FIVE PATRICK J. BURG

COMMAND CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER, 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE

Chief Warrant Officer Five Patrick J. Burg, a native of Richardson, Texas, entered military service in 2004 through Warrant Officer Candidate School and earned his Army Aviator wings in 2006.

A Master Army Aviator and AH-64D/E Apache Maintenance Examiner, CW5 Burg has held critical aviation maintenance, technical, and operational leadership positions across the globe. His key assignments include Tactical Operations Officer and Maintenance Test Pilot with the 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, Fort Riley, Kansas; Production Control Officer, Aviation Maintenance Officer, and Maintenance Examiner with 4-227 ARB and 7-17 Air Cavalry Squadron, Fort Hood, Texas; and Quality Control Officer, Support Operations Aviation Officer, and Brigade Aviation Maintenance Officer with the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea.

CW5 Burg's operational deployments include multiple combat tours across Iraq and Syria supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, and Inherent Resolve, as well as Operation Enduring Freedom in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

His military education culminates in Warrant Officer Senior Service Education, the Tactical Operations Officer Course, the Aviation Maintenance Officer Course, and the AH-64 Maintenance Test Pilot Course. His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Action Badge, and the Order of St. Michael (Silver Award).

CW5 Burg and his wife, Elvia, have two sons, Memo and Mateo.

Aviation Commissioned Officers

Class 26-024: Aviation Basic Officer Leader Course

2LT Albelo Garcia, Richard G.

CPT Companion, Ryan P.

2LT Freas, Elexia S.

1LT Marin Cruz, Reinaldo

1LT Moreno, Brandon E.

2LT O'Connor, Jaina C.

1LT Rogers, John D.

1LT Smith, Jay K.

1LT Sowinski, Christopher J.

1LT Thompson, Eleanor V.

2LT Timmer, John D.

1LT Ward, Mary R.

1LT Ye, Alvin L.

CPT Zacharias, Henry S.



*The engraved Sterling Silver Wings presented to the
Distinguished Graduates are provided by the
Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA).*

Aviation Warrant Officers

WO1 Bailey, Austin W.
WO1 Beaulieu, Jacob S.
WO1 Collins, Colton J.
WO1 Cruz, Jean Noriel H.
WO1 Cuvillier, Stuart A.
WO1 Davis, Colin M.
WO1 Fader, Jordan S.
WO1 Ford, Casey D.
WO1 Garcia, Noel A.
WO1 Hemenway, Hunter L.
WO1 Houecande, Segbede O.F.S.
WO1 Krauss, Alex M.
WO1 Mahoney, Jeffery D.
WO1 Melgartorres, Jose D.
WO1 Papenfuhs, Ryan B.
WO1 Salinas Gutierrez, Edgar
WO1 Stedam, Lucas R.
WO1 Szeliga, Joseph P.
WO1 Watson, Johnathan P.
WO1 Young, Kirby D.

Class 26-024: Aviation Warrant Officer Basic Course

AVIATION BRANCH SONG ABOVE THE BEST

High above the best. High above the best.
We are Army Aviation USA.
Proud and strong.
We meet the test.
Skies filled with thunder.
Wearing silver wings upon our chest.
We meet the needs of Ground Command
As we aid the Nation's quest.
Army Aviation, flying high above the best!

Lyrics and Music by Jo Johnston, 1987
Adopted as the official song of Army Aviation, 1987

THE ARMY SONG THE ARMY GOES ROLLING ALONG

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.

Music by John Philip Sousa, 1917
Lyrics by Harold W. Arberg, 1956
Adopted as the official song of the Army, 1956