

# Aviation Center of Excellence



**Flight School  
Graduation  
Ceremony**



**AH-64**  
**APACHE**

**UH-60**  
**BLACK HAWK**



**CH-47**  
**CHINOOK**

**C-12**  
**HURON**



# Flight School Class 26-014

May 14, 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 Brain L. Haas

Commander

1st Battalion

14th Aviation Regiment

Fort Rucker, Alabama

**Address**.....COL Michael H. Gourgues

Commander

1st Aviation Brigade

Fort Rucker, Alabama

**Announcement of Graduates**.....Master of Ceremony

**Presentation of Wings**.....LTC Haas

\*\* **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

## **COLONEL MICHAEL H. GOURGUES**

### **COMMANDER, 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE**

Colonel Michael H. Gourgues commissioned into the U.S. Army Aviation branch from Tulane University in 2002. He also holds a Master's in Business Administration from Webster University and a Master's of Strategic Studies from the Army War College.

Following flight school, he served as an Attack Platoon Leader, Troop Executive Officer, and Squadron S1 with 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry, from 2004 through 2006. While deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09, he served as a Battalion Intelligence Officer and Company Commander with the 2-159th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, under the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) in Germany.

After attending the Maneuver Captain's Career Course, he became the Attack Observer/Controller-Trainer at the Joint Multinational Training Center. As a Field Grade Officer, he served as the Assistant G3 Air and Current Plans Officer for the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Following his professional schooling at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, COL Gourgues served as the Operations and Executive Officer for the 3rd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division (AD) CAB. During this assignment, he and his unit deployed to Operation Inherent Resolve. Following this experience, he served as the Air Cavalry Leader's Course Commandant and Tactics Director for the Directorate of Training and Doctrine at Fort Rucker. He also commanded the 3-6 Air Cavalry Squadron, 1AD CAB before attending the U.S. Army War College. Prior to his current assignment, he served as the Current Operations Director with the U.S. Africa Command.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (4 Oak Leaf Clusters), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (2 OLC), the Master Aviator Badge, the Space Badge, Combat Action Badge, and the Parachutist Badge.

Colonel Gourgues and his wife, Emily, have three daughters: Luca, Remy, and Noel.

# Aviation Commissioned Officers

Class 26-014: Aviation Basic Officer Leader Course

1LT Barco, Jasmine M.	2LT Ouellette, Donald D.
1LT Barnett, William L.	2LT Oyler, Gabriel A.
2LT Bartz, Jere A.	1LT Redmon, Alexander S.
1LT Bridgewater, Larry K.	1LT Rocco, Zachary J.
1LT Buczak, Abigail C.	2LT Rupprecht, Matthew D.
1LT Cordova, Jared T.	1LT Sacripante, Alexandra
2LT Dore, MacKenzie L.	1LT Seymour, Anthony S.
1LT Funck, Connor T.	1LT Tucker, Alexander N.
1LT Gonzalez-Cordero, Yariel A.	1LT Vuleta, Daniel J.
2LT Lewis, Michael R.	2LT Weiland, Alexander J.
1LT Madani, Margaret A.	1LT Wilkinson, Camden J.
1LT Maune, Darby L.	1LT Wolf, Edward J.
1LT Nitti, Michael D.	1LT Yi, Ryan Y.



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

# Aviation Warrant Officers

WO1 Adam, Paul W.	WO1 Kim, Junam
WO1 AlDakheeli, Ali H.	WO1 Le, Sang T.
WO1 Baldwin, Matthew S.	WO1 Martin, Daryl J.
WO1 Bender, Noah J.	WO1 McCoy, Jonathan A.
WO1 Bogle, Kraig R.	WO1 Murphy, Nicholas A.
WO1 Boyd, Michael E.	WO1 Olson, Ethan C.
WO1 Burke, Shemar A.	WO1 Quinn, Allison R.
WO1 Carswell, Dawson C.	WO1 Reeck, Paul D.
WO1 Copen, Hayden R.	WO1 Reyes, Dallas L.
WO1 Dennis, Jacob E.	WO1 Rustad, Connor B.
WO1 Dove, Shawn M.	WO1 Seedorf, Colin S.
WO1 Eisenhart, Zachary H.	WO1 Servito, Dean Patrick C.
WO1 Faust, Brian S.	WO1 Snow, Isaac B.
WO1 Fishinghawk, Jesse	WO1 Soreide, Hunter S.
WO1 Hadley, Kyle J.	WO1 Strickroth, Tucker I.
WO1 Kenney, Michael S.	

*Class 26-014: 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*