

# **New Mexico National Guard Biography of The Adjutant General Brigadier General Andrew E. Salas**

## **BRIGADIER GENERAL ANDREW E. SALAS**

Brigadier General Andrew E. Salas assumed the duties as Adjutant General for the New Mexico National Guard, Santa Fe, NM on July 24, 2012. As Adjutant General he commands the Army and Air National Guard, as well as, serves as the commander of the State Defense Force. In addition to his federal duties, BG Salas serves as military chief of staff to the Governor and as the Governor's principal advisor on military affairs. He is also president of the State Armory Board and provides oversight for the New Mexico Civil Air Patrol.



He previously served as the Assistant Adjutant General for Air, New Mexico Air National Guard. He was responsible for ensuring the 150th Wing was staffed, equipped and trained to prevail along the full spectrum of combat and emergency or disaster response.

He also served at Headquarters Air Force as Chief of Ground Safety and Acting Vice-Commander. He developed and oversaw ground safety policy, plans, programs and standards for over 680,000 military and civilian Air Force personnel worldwide.

Concurrently, he was Director of Support, Joint Force Headquarters, New Mexico National Guard, assigned as the J-1 to oversee personnel and manpower accession, training, assignment, availability and accountability of Soldiers and Airmen assigned to joint duty.

As Vice-Commander of the 150th Fighter Wing, New Mexico Air National Guard, he ensured the Wing had the manpower, facilities, equipment and training to provide air dominance in wartime and to protect the public in times of emergency and disaster upon the call of the Governor. He was the National Guard's representative to the 377th Air Base Wing and the NM Committee of Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve.

Prior assignments include Director of Staff of the New Mexico Air National Guard and Commander, 150th Mission Support Group with oversight of the Wing's Civil Engineer Squadron, Logistics Readiness Squadron, Security Forces Squadron, Mission Support Flight, Services Flight, Communications Flight as well as the Contracting and Bio Environmental functions.

Duty as a commissioned officer included Chief of Field (Aircraft) Maintenance, Communications Flight Commander, Mission Support Flight Commander, State Equal Employment Manager, Joint Task Force Counterdrug Coordinator and additional duty legislative liaison. Under his watch, the 150th Communications Flight went from marginal inspection ratings to outstanding. The 150th Mission Support Flight was selected as the U.S. Air Force Mission Support Flight of the Year and the New Mexico National Guard received the first-ever Department of Defense Community Drug Awareness Award.

He led New Mexico's first Joint Army and Air Task Force with ground and air components to conduct supply and demand reduction operations in support of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies as well as educational and community based organizations. He worked with Civil Air Patrol to develop a model mentorship program for at-risk middle school youth.

BG Salas served in the Executive Office of the President, Drug Control Policy, helping lead an inter-agency effort in crafting, with Mexican counterparts, measures of effectiveness for the *U.S.-Mexico Bi-National Drug Control Strategy*.

He oversaw the mobilization, deployment, sustainment and return of Air Guard forces deployed to assist with recovery operations in the wake of devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

He commanded the 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group, Balad Air Base, Iraq, in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

## **EDUCATION**

1981 U.S. Air Force Basic Military Training School, Honor Graduate, Lackland AFB, Texas  
1982 Weapon Control Systems Technical School, Honor Graduate, Lowry AFB, Colorado  
1984 BS degree, Electronics Technology, Chapman College, Orange County California  
1987 Academy of Military Science, Citizen Soldier Award Recipient, McGhee Tyson ANGB  
1991 Defense Equal Employment Management Institute, Top Graduate, Patrick AFB, Florida  
1995 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Alabama  
1997 Joint Air Command and Staff College, Top-Third Graduate, Maxwell AFB, Alabama  
2002 Air War College, Excellent Graduate, non-resident  
2003 Master of Science degree in International Studies and Civil-Military Relations, Distinguished Graduate, Naval Post-Graduate School, Monterey, California

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. Feb. 1987 – Jan. 1989, Chief, Field Maintenance, 150 Maintenance Squadron, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
2. Jan. 1989 – Feb. 1990, Commander, 150th Communications Flight, Kirtland AFB
3. Feb. 1990 – Nov. 1990, Commander, 150th Mission Support Flight Kirtland AFB
4. Nov. 1990 – July 1991, State Drug Interdiction Officer, Santa Fe, N.M.
5. July 1991 – Feb. 1992, State Equal Employment Officer, Santa Fe
6. Nov. 1992 – Apr. 1998, State Drug Interdiction Officer, Santa Fe
7. Apr. 1998 – Feb. 1999, Executive Office of the President, Washington D.C.
8. Feb. 1999 – Jan. 2004, State Drug Interdiction Officer, Santa Fe
9. Jan. 2004 – Apr. 2008, Commander, 150th Mission Support Group, Kirtland AFB
10. Apr. 2008 – Aug. 2009, Director of Staff, N.M. Air National Guard, Santa Fe
11. Aug. 2009 – May 2010, Vice-Commander, 150th Fighter Wing, Kirtland AFB
12. Jun. 2010 – Apr. 2012, Director of Support, HQ, N.M. Air National Guard, Kirtland AFB
13. Feb. 2010 – Jul 2012, Concurrent duty as Chief of USAF Ground Safety/Vice-Commander, Air Force Safety Center, Headquarters, United States Air Force, Kirtland AFB
14. May 2012 - Present: Assistant Adjutant General for Air

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Meritorious Service Medal with three devices  
Joint Service Commendation Medal  
Air Force Commendation Medal with one device  
Army Commendation Medal  
Air Force Achievement Medal with two devices  
Meritorious Unit Award  
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award  
Air Force Organizational Excellence Award  
Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with one device  
Iraq Campaign Medal with one device  
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border  
Air Force Longevity Service with seven devices  
Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 1 "M" Device

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

Enlisted	August 30, 1980
Second Lieutenant	February 12, 1987
First Lieutenant	April 1, 1989
Captain	April 9, 1991
Major	May 6, 1995
Lieutenant Colonel	June 12, 1999
Colonel	June 27, 2003
Brigadier General	July 24, 2012

#### **CIVILIAN RECOGNITION**

1988: Top Essay—General William B. Spruance National Essay Contest  
1993: National Image Meritorious Service Award  
2006: National Guard Association of the United States Distinguished Service Medal  
2012: Kirtland Air Force Base Civilian of the Quarter, GS-14 Category  
Published in Defense News and Wingman Magazine

He has served as the president of the New Mexico National Guard Association and on the Board of Directors of the National Guard Association of the U.S, representing 13 States and Guam. He served as Chair of the 2006 NGAUS National Conference with over 3000 attendees from all 50 States and 4 Territories.

(Current as of August 2012)