



MASSACHUSETTS NATIONAL GUARD NEWS RELEASE

2 RANDOLPH ROAD, HANSCOM AFB, MA 01731

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Rockland Native Assumes Command of Massachusetts Air National Guard

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. — Brig. Gen. Joseph F. Morrissey Jr. took command of the Massachusetts Air National Guard during a ceremony at the Joint Force Headquarters here Dec. 2. In his new role, Morrissey becomes the Massachusetts Guard's air component commander, its ranking Air Guard officer and the principal advisor to the state adjutant general and land component commander on all Air National Guard and joint staff programs.

"Today is an extremely humbling day for me," Morrissey told an audience of friends, family and fellow Massachusetts National Guard members. "The challenges we face grow every day and are coming from every direction... Together, I am confident we can take on these challenges and ensure the safety and security of our nation."

A native of Rockland, Massachusetts, Morrissey has more than 42 years of military service. He enlisted in the Air Force in September 1981 and spent his initial assignment as a Navigational Aid Technician at the former Pease Air Force Base, New Hampshire. He joined the Massachusetts Air National Guard in 1987 and earned his officer's commission in 1995.

"Joe Morrissey, quite frankly, sets the bar for Guard officers," said Air Force Maj. Gen. Gary W. Keefe, adjutant general of Massachusetts. "He's the perfect mixture of professionalism, smarts and just a great people person. Knowing Joe Morrissey makes you a better person."

The general has spent his commissioned career as an engineering and communications officer. His previous assignments include command of the Massachusetts Air Guard's 267th Combat Communications Squadron, director of logistics and deputy commander of the 253rd Combat Communications Group and commander of the 253rd Cyberspace Engineering Installation Group and the 202nd Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance Group, all at Otis Air National Guard Base on Joint Base Cape Cod. He later served as director of cyberspace operations for the Massachusetts Air National Guard headquarters at Hanscom Air Force Base, and his most recent assignment was assistant adjutant general for air.

Morrissey has deployed to Southwest Asia in support of U.S. combat operations. He commanded the 506th Expeditionary Communication Squadron while deployed to Kirkuk Regional Air Base in Iraq and was the officer in charge of Joint Expeditionary Tasked Airmen at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.



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Air Force Brig. Gen. Virginia I. Gaglio relinquished command to Morrissey after holding the job since January 2020.

“Joe Morrissey is an exceptional officer,” said Gaglio, who will pin on a second star this month and take a new position as Air Guard advisor to the commander of Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. “I wish him the best as he takes command and look forward to seeing the accomplishments the Massachusetts Air National Guard will achieve under his experienced leadership.”

Morrissey expressed gratitude to Gaglio for elevating his new command to unprecedented levels throughout her nearly four-year term. “I will do my best to continue on this vector of excellence you have set for us.”

Morrissey holds a bachelors degree in Electrical Engineering Technology from the University of Massachusetts Lowell where he graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1993. In 2006, he earned a masters degree in Telecommunications from Boston University. He is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Air Command and Staff College and the Air War College.

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NOTE TO PRODUCERS AND EDITORS: Downloadable photos of the ceremony and Brig. Gen. Morrissey’s is available by clicking the photo below.



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