

SFC Freyja E. Eccles enlisted in the Army Reserves in January 1999 and attended basic and advanced training at Ft Leonard Wood. She graduated in September 1999 as a Heavy Construction Equipment Operator. She graduated from the Medical Laboratory Specialist course at Fort Sam Houston in 2006.

SFC Eccles has served in the Army Reserves, National Guard, and has served on Active Duty since May 2002. During her time, she has been assigned to Ft. Drum, Ft. Bragg, Ft. Stewart, Ft. Sam Houston, Germany, and S. Korea. Her assignments have taken her from Combat Engineer Battalions to Medical Support Companies, Hospitals, and instructing Blood Banking at the Army/Navy Medical Laboratory Specialist course. Additionally, she has deployed twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 and 2009. She was credentialed as a Victim Advocate in February 2015 and has served the Army SHARP program since. SFC Eccles has served as a full-time Victim Advocate since 2019 and has spent almost a year working as a Brigade Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC). Currently, SFC Eccles is working as an intern for the National Crime Victims Law Institute as a part of the DoD Skillbridge/Army Career Skills Program (CSP).

SFC Eccles has attended the SHARP Foundation Course, Master Resiliency Trainer Course, Instructor Training Course, and the SHARP SARC/VA Career Course. She earned her associate degree in health sciences through the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, College of Allied Health Sciences.

SFC Eccles awards and decorations include the MSM, ARCOM (6 OLC), AAM (5 OLC), MUC (1 OLC), AGCM (6th award), NDSM, ICM (2 CS), GWOTEM, GWOTSM, KDSM, HSM, MOVSM, and OSR (4th Award).

SFC Eccles currently lives in Olympia, WA with her wife, SFC Kathryn Goldston. They have four children, Siege, Mackenna, Chloe, and Bruce, and two cats. She is scheduled to retire from the Army January 31, 2024.



# BIOGRAPHY

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### LIEUTENANT COLONEL LEAH ECCLES WATSON

Lieutenant Colonel Leah Eccles Watson is the Policy Officer for the National Guard Special Victims' Counsel Program. In this role, she is responsible for developing internal policy, and advising on external policies, regulations, and law that impact the operations of the National Guard Special Victims' Counsel Program. The National Guard Special Victims' Counsel Program represents members of the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and their dependents, who are victims of sexual assault or domestic violence. Lt Col Watson conducts training and outreach throughout the country and is also detailed to represent National Guard affiliated victims before military courts-martial and in administrative military proceedings.



Lt Col Watson received a direct commission as an Air Force judge advocate in November 2007. During her active duty career, Lt Col Watson has served at the Headquarters, Numbered Air Force, and Wing level in such capacities as chief of military justice, chief of civil law, chief of operations, and as an ethics counselor. In 2011, she deployed to an undisclosed location where she served as the Chief of Military Justice and prosecuted a high profile officer case. From 2016 to 2018, she served as the Staff Judge Advocate to the Commander and Regional General Counsel to the Senior Vice President of the Army & Air Force Service Exchange Europe and SW Asia Headquarters in Sembach, Germany. Additionally, Lt Col Watson was one of the first interim Special Victims' Counsel while on active duty after receiving training in December 2012.

In 2019, Lt Col Watson transferred to the Oregon Air National Guard. Prior to her current position, Lt Col Watson was the Staff Judge Advocate, Kingsley Field ANG Base, Klamath Falls, Oregon. In her civilian capacity, she is a Staff Attorney with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Lt Col Watson is admitted to practice law before the Supreme Court of Oregon, the Supreme Court of Washington, the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals, the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, and the Supreme Court of the United States.

#### EDUCATION

2001 Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film Production, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado  
2004 Juris Doctor, S.J. Quinney College of Law, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah  
2009 Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama  
2012 Squadron Officer School (correspondence)  
2015 Master of Laws, General Law (Labor & Employment Law), The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

#### ASSIGNMENTS

1. April 2008 – July 2010, Assistant Staff Judge Advocate (Chief of Operations Law, Adverse Actions, Civil Law, Legal Assistance, Preventative Law, and Ethics), 60th Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base (AFB), CA

2. August 2010 – July 2012, Assistant Staff Judge Advocate (Chief of Military Justice), Ogden Air Logistics Center (inactivated) and 75th Air Base Wing, Hill AFB, UT (July-September 2011, Deployed Chief of Military Justice, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing)
3. August 2012 – August 2014, Assistant Staff Judge Advocate (Chief of Military Justice, and Civil Law), Headquarters, Fourteenth Air Force, Vandenberg AFB, CA (January 2013-September 2015, Special Victims' Counsel)
4. August 2014 – June 2015, Masters of Law Candidate, George Washington University Law School, Washington, DC
5. June 2015 – July 2016, Litigation Attorney, Labor Law Field Support Center-Eglin Regional Office, Air Force Legal Operations Agency, Eglin AFB, FL
6. July 2016 – September 2018, Staff Judge Advocate/Regional General Counsel, Army & Air Force Exchange Service, Europe/SW Asia Region, Sembach, Germany
7. September 2018 – June 2019, Assistant Staff Judge Advocate (Chief of Administrative Law), Headquarters, Fourteenth Air Force, Vandenberg AFB, CA
8. July 2019 – August 2021, Staff Judge Advocate, 173rd Fighter Wing (OR-ANG), Klamath Falls, OR
9. August 2021 – November 2023, Senior Regional Special Victims' Counsel (promoted to Senior Regional in February 2022), National Guard Special Victims' Counsel Program (NGB-GC/SVC), Portland, OR
10. November 2023 – Present, Policy Officer, National Guard Special Victims' Counsel Program (NGB-GC/SVC), Arlington, VA

#### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with two Oak Leaf Clusters

Air Force Material Command Outstanding Judge Advocate of the Year 2011 (Albert M. Kuhfeld Award)

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

First Lieutenant 20 November 20, 2007

Captain July 13, 2008

Major May 1, 2015

Lieutenant Colonel May 1, 2022

**(CURRENT AS OF NOVEMBER 2023)**