



# BIOGRAPHY

## **UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

### **COLONEL (DR.) MICHAEL J. HIGGINS**

Colonel (Dr.) Michael Higgins is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the San Antonio Military Health System (SAMHS). He oversees the execution of daily operations of a \$1.2 billion multi-service healthcare system for more than 240,000 beneficiaries across nine medical treatment facilities in the San Antonio metropolitan area. Col Higgins advises the SAMHS' Director, Deputy Director and commanders from both Army and Air Force facilities on strategic, operational, and tactical issues involved in successful integration of a variety of healthcare services across the market.



Colonel Higgins was born at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio before moving to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1993 as a distinguished military graduate earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biochemistry. Upon graduation from the Academy, he received a commission as second lieutenant and entered medical school. He earned his Doctor of Medicine Degree in 1997 from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. He completed a combined residency in Family Practice and Psychiatry through a joint service program in the National Capital Area with Malcolm Grow Medical Center and Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He holds board certifications in both specialties through the American Board of Family Medicine and the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. Dr. Higgins earned a competitive scholarship through the distinguished American College of Physician Executives and holds a third board certification in medical management as a certified physician executive. Dr. Higgins is a rated flight surgeon and has successfully led teams as Chief of the Medical Staff and Commander of a Surgical Operations Squadron. He also commanded the Medical Operations Squadron at Craig Joint Theater Hospital, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

Colonel Higgins is married to the former Kathy Smith and has two children, Bridget and Molly.

#### **FORMAL EDUCATION:**

- 1993 Bachelor of Science, United States Air Force Academy
- 1997 Doctor of Medicine, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
- 1998 Combined Internship, Family Practice and Psychiatry, National Capital Consortium
- 2002 Family Practice and Psychiatry Residency Training, National Capital Consortium
- 2002 Squadron Officer School (correspondence)
- 2004 Intermediate Executive Skills Course
- 2005 Air Command and Staff College (correspondence)
- 2008 Certified Physician Executive
- 2008 Aerospace Primary Course (AMP)
- 2011 Air War College (in-residence equivalency)

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. July 2002 - January 2003: Staff Psychiatrist and Family Physician, Life Skills Support Center and Family Practice Clinic, 72d Medical Operations Squadron, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma
2. January 2003 - July 2005: Family Physician, Deputy Mental Health Flight Commander, Chief of Psychiatry and Deputy Chief of Medical Staff, 72d Medical Operations Squadron, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma
3. July 2005 - July 2009: Chief of the Medical Staff, 436th Medical Group, Dover AFB, Delaware
4. July 2009 – July 2012: Commander, 48th Surgical Operations Squadron, RAF Lakenheath, England
5. August 2012 – March 2013: Chief of Psychiatry and Family Physician, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas Staff Officer, San Antonio Military Health System, Texas
6. March 2013 – August 2013: Commander, 455th Expeditionary Medical Operations Squadron and Chief of Medical Staff, 455th Expeditionary Medical Group, Craig Joint Theater Hospital, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan
7. September 2013 – Present: Chief Operating Officer, San Antonio Military Health System

**MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:**

- 1993 United States Air Force Academy Leadership Excellence Award
- 1999 National Capital Consortium Resident of the Year
- 2001 National Capital Consortium Resident of the Year
- 2002 National Capital Consortium Resident of the Year
- 2002 National Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Resident Teacher Award
- 2004 Air Force Material Command Clinical Excellence Award, Field Grade
- 2007 AFMS Special Expertise Identifier for Clinical Psychiatry
- 2008 AMC Selectee for Paul Myers Physician Award
- 2008 AMP Distinguished Graduate and Leadership Award
- 2010 USAFE Selectee for Paul Myers Physician Award

- Meritorious Service Medal (with two oak leaf clusters)
- Air Force Commendation Medal
- Air Force Achievement Medal (with one oak leaf cluster)
- Air Force Meritorious Unit Award
- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (with two oak leaf clusters)
- Air Force Organizational Excellence Award
- National Defense Service Medal (with bronze star)
- Air Force Longevity Service Award (with four oak leaf clusters)
- Global War on Terrorism Medal
- NATO Medal
- Department of State Meritorious Honor Award

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS:**

- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Psychiatric Association
- Association of Military Surgeons of the United States
- American College of Physician Executives

**EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:**

- 2d Lieutenant 2 June 1993
- Captain 15 May 1997
- Major 17 April 2003
- Lt Col 31 May 2008
- Colonel 31 May 2013

(Current as of 27 Nov 2013)