

Wendy Emminger, USAF



Wendy Emminger is an Arizona native and 2003 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. She was a 4-year member of the USAFA Women's Soccer team, team captain, MVP, and 4-time member of the Mountain West Conference All-Academic team. Additionally, she was a 6-time member of the All-Armed Forces Women's soccer team and even got to fly her team to the Military World Games in Brazil. During her time in the KC-10 she was an Instructor, Evaluator, Formal Training Unit (FTU) Instructor and Functional Check Flight (FCF) Pilot. She was Distinguished Graduate of both her Aircraft Commander and Instructor Pilot upgrade as well as Squadron Officer School. She was named Group and Squadron Instructor Pilot of the year, Squadron Aircrew of the Year and commanded the Operation's Group Team of the Year. She deployed 7 times in support of Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom flying over 170 combat missions. She served as the Executive Officer to the NATO E-3A Component Commander, a 2-star General, and led a multinational staff responsible for administration of an International Headquarter of 1900+ military and civilian personnel from 16 nations. She was selected as Field Grade Officer of the year and selected for early promotion to Lt Col (2 BPZ), putting her among the top 1% of her peers.

After attending a year of German training at DLI in Monterey, CA, Wendy was assigned to the German Staff College in Hamburg, Germany to represent the US Air Force to 89 elite officers from 15 NATO/EU states. During her first year at the Academy she found out she was selected for Squadron Command of the KC-46 Formal Training Unit in Altus, OK, but was medically retired from the military due to an unexpected onset of extreme depression.

Wendy is currently studying to become a Parayoga Instructor and is enrolled in an Executive Master in Global Management at Thunderbird School of Global Management in Arizona. She's in the process of writing a book as well as standing up the Emminger Leadership and Yoga Institute in Portugal, where she plans to host corporate retreats and fuse the lessons of leadership and resiliency she's learned through 30 years of participating in team sports, operating as a military aviator as well as suffering through a severe mental illness with the principles of Yoga to improve corporate culture, create sustainable, diverse teams and build more empathetic and resilient leaders. Finally, she serves as an Air Force Wounded Warrior (AFW2) Ambassador and PREVENTS AZ State Ambassador.