



Colonel George Edward Nichols is the Chief of Strategic Design and Construction Division, Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. He leads a team of 112 personnel responsible for \$3.5 billion in world-wide, large-scale operations and maintenance design and construction efforts supporting the Air Force and other federal agencies such as Defense Logistics Agency, National Air and Space Agency and National Reconnaissance Office.

Prior to his current assignment, Colonel Nichols was Deputy Chief, Military Construction Design and Construction Division, Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. He led a team of 61 engineer and architect professionals planning, programming, budgeting, designing, and executing more than 600 projects worth \$21 billion for all military construction in the contiguous United States which includes Air Force new weapon system beddowns, recapitalization, and natural disaster recovery efforts such as F-35, KC-46, B-21, Presidential Airlift, T-7, Weapons Generation Facilities, Ground Based Strategic Deterrent, Airmen Basic Training Complexes and Tyndall and Offutt Air Force Base rebuilds.

Colonel Nichols was born in 1977 on Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. Upon graduating in May 2000 with a Civil Engineer degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology, he entered the Air Force as an officer through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). In 2007, he completed a Master's of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University. He has been assigned to a variety of positions in garrison, Center, Major Command, and Headquarters Air Force levels most notably as a Congressional Liaison while assigned to the Pentagon, twice a Squadron Commander, and a Deputy Group Commander. He has also served more than 1,100 days through five contingency tours in the Central Command area of responsibility in support

of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH, IRAQI FREEDOM, ENDURING FREEDOM, NEW DAWN, and INHERENT RESOLVE. He's been awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with six oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal and was recognized as the Air Force's 2012 Civil Engineer Staff Officer of the Year.

He is the son of Air Force Retired Technical Sergeant John and Kim Nichols, and brother of Daniel Nichols (Northside 1991 alum who passed unexpectedly in July 2021). He is married to Frances (Skelly), also an Air Force Field Grade Officer and Nurse. They have five children and as of December 2021 they welcomed their sixth grandchild.

While at Northside, George was a two sport scholar athlete in football and wrestling. In football, he was an offensive lineman for four years while garnering twice Region Runner-up and State Quarterfinalist and winning the inaugural O-Line Ironman Award. He was an Honorary Captain and Hustler Award winner in both sports his senior year. He finished 6th place at Area in wrestling, qualifying him for State. He was 4th Runner up for Mr. Northside, one of 20 Outstanding Seniors, an Honor Graduate and a 12-year Houston County Gifted program graduate. Also, he was Top 5% of his class for three years and recipient of the Georgia Certificate of Merit, U.S. National Leadership Merit Award, National Leadership and Service Award, and culminated high school by garnering a 3-year Air Force ROTC Scholarship to the Georgia Institute of Technology. He was an ardent member of the Fellowship Christian Athletes, Beta Club, Student Council and Senior Executive Committee.

### *What does Northside High School mean to you?*

Northside High School is such an amazing place and will always hold a special place in my heart. It's a school for all sides of our community not just the Northside; its diversity, its culture of excellence and tradition, its embodiment of family and deep determination to leave everything you encounter better is truly at the core of being an Eagle. If you've walked the halls and experienced the love poured out by the administrators, counselors, custodians, teachers, and coaches then you just know...you've been changed forever and you are challenged to reciprocate whenever and wherever life takes you. For many of us it's our compass. It's our personal reference guide to life that always points "NAWF". No matter where you are in your journey or to what success you have achieved, Northside was that foundation. We are all so blessed to have experienced it. The pride taken in displaying or donning that "N" means something. It meant that onward you will conquer and prevail, that you will rise to set the standards, that you will always be all "N" in everything you do!

There are way too many to mention from my 4-year stint that called the village at 926 Green Street home and raised me up to soar into this world. Most notably were the number of fellow seniors in our Class of 1995 that had parents that worked at Northside. We grew up together and the expectations were set at a very early age. There was no looking back, except only to witness the many journeys trail-blazed by some phenomenal human beings, all of which I consider family to this day. I'm a tiny representation of this family...the Class of 1995, Northside High, All Hail! IGTBANE!

Dyson, Moore, Stanley, Ginn, Adams, Ogletree, Burrell, Murchison, Littlefield, Henke, Havrilla, Faircloth, Chedister, Blanchard, Combs, Campbell, Winge, Turpin, Kinsaul, Sims, Summers, Peavy, Jones, Horne, Yongue, (Mark and Kim) Stewart, Nix, Gann, Gallaher, Kinsler, Porch, Scott, Kelly, Daughtry, Wilcox...with a grateful heart, thanks!