



Major Matthew A. Pellegrine

United States Air Force

Military Mentor

Maj. Pellegrine joined the Air Force in 2015 after receiving a direct commission. He serves as a military attorney at Travis Air Force Base, California and supervises a team in the practice of environmental law. Part of their mission is to review pending environmental legislation and engage legislators on potential impacts to the military. Maj. Pellegrine has previously served as a military prosecutor, victims' counsel, and installation judge advocate. He deployed in 2017 in support of detainee operations at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and was awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal. He has earned several other distinctions for his outstanding leadership, including the Air Force Commendation Medal as well as annual and quarterly awards.



In 2016, Maj. Pellegrine was selected to aid the Department of Justice as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, prosecuting civilians who engaged in illegal activity on military installations. He has been stationed in Florida, New Mexico, and Washington D.C.

Maj. Pellegrine's desire to serve was motivated by a car accident that left him significantly injured. This event left him with a hunger to serve and give back to his country.

In addition to his service, Maj. Pellegrine has given back through empowering America's youth. Maj. Pellegrine has a passion for mentorship and teaching inspired by all the professors, mentors, and leaders that have influenced him. At Pace University, Maj. Pellegrine was actively involved in new student orientation and helped thousands of high school students transition to college. He also taught two introductory-level courses for freshmen. As a military officer, Maj. Pellegrine has served as a mentor to middle and high school students and has organized events tailored to educating young scholars and bridging the gap between the military and local community.

Maj. Pellegrine attended Memorial High School in Elmwood Park, New Jersey. He was active in school clubs and events; most notably in school plays, marching band, and the multicultural club. Maj. Pellegrine was also a passionate student leader and engaged his fellow classmates as a senior member of Peer Leadership, an organization dedicated to inspiring and empowering others. He represented his hometown at Boy's State, a leadership program focused on the exploration of U.S. government and politics. Maj. Pellegrine earned top marks and graduated as a member of both the National and Golden Key Honor Societies. Upon graduation, Maj. Pellegrine was offered a scholarship to attend Pace University.

Maj. Pellegrine attended Pace University in Pleasantville, New York. He graduated, magna cum laude, with a B.B.A. in May 2011. Maj. Pellegrine served in leadership positions such as Student Government Executive Vice President, Fraternal Council President, and Resident Assistant. For his outstanding leadership, Maj. Pellegrine was recognized as President of the Year (2009) and Outstanding Student Leader (2011). Maj. Pellegrine was a member of the Business Honors Program, the Pforzheimer Honors College, and five honor societies.

Maj. Pellegrine then attended Pace Law School and graduated, magna cum laude, in 2014. He served on the executive board of the Law Review and competed in several trial advocacy competitions. In 2020, Maj. Pellegrine attended George Washington University Law School, where he obtained his Master of Laws degree with highest honors.