

Jefferson Burton

Jefferson (Jeff) Burton was born in Sana Ana, California. His family moved to Utah where he graduated from Payson High School. He served as a missionary for two years in Northern Canada working with Native American Tribes to include the Cree, Assiniboine, and Ojibway.

He completed a Bachelor of Science Degree at the University of New York in Albany, and a Master of Science Degree at The United States Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He also earned a certificate in National and International Security from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

He served as an Assistant Professor of Military Science at Brigham Young University and Utah Valley State College from 1999-2000. He currently serves as an Adjunct Professor of National Security Studies at Utah Valley University.

He is a veteran of the United States Army, where he retired at the rank of Major General. He has served around the globe to include assignments in Europe, South East Asia, Central and South America, Africa and the Middle East. While serving in Europe he witnessed the fall of the Soviet Union and the destruction of the Berlin Wall. He has served in combat where he commanded a Sapper Battalion during the initial invasion of Iraq with responsibility for eliminating explosive devices from roads, buildings and tunnels. He returned to the Middle East six times over a nine-year period.

He has participated in dozens of humanitarian missions around the globe and served as the agency lead in partnerships with the Kingdom of Morocco, and the Republic of Nepal. These relationships include hundreds of military and civilian exchanges over a 15-year period. In his last military assignment, he served as the Commanding General for the 7,500 Soldiers and Airmen of the Utah Army and Air National Guard, supporting more than 35,000 family members.

He has served as the Chairman of the Board for a non-profit organization committed to aiding Veteran's and their families from 2007-2012, and continues to serve on multiple Boards dedicated to assisting America's finest. He was a member of the Governor's Cabinet from 2012-2019.

Jeff is married to the former Charlene Throckmorton of Salt Lake City. They are the parents of three children.