



FACT SHEET



Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma



LOCATION

Located 90 miles north by northwest of Oklahoma City at Enid, Okla., with an elevation of 1,307 feet above sea level, Vance Air Force Base is the northernmost Undergraduate Pilot Training base in the Air Education and Training Command.

PHYSICAL FACILITIES

There are 130 buildings and 306 facilities on Vance, not including housing, as of November 2019. Additionally, Vance has 242 housing units - 141 officer family units, 101 enlisted family units, 309 unaccompanied units, 28 visitor units, and 5 temporary lodging units. Vance is currently replacing the outside runway, several runways, and recently completed construction of a new Air Traffic Control Tower. The base is approximately 2,122 acres, which includes fee-owned land and easements. Kegelman Auxiliary Field is 1,054 acres with seven buildings and 39 facilities, and is located near Jet, Okla.

BASE POPULATION

Vance has about 1,400 active duty and reserve military, as well as more than 1,500 family members, living in the local area. The base also employs more than 1,400 Federal civilian employees, non-appropriated fund civilian employees, contractors and private business employees. There are an estimated 3,000 retired military members in the local area.

ANNUAL FLYING HOURS AND SORTIES

The wing operates over 200 aircraft, flies more than 50,000 sorties annually and logs more than 74,000 flying hours in the T-1A Jayhawk, T-6A Texan II and T-38C Talon. More than 300 U.S. Air Force student pilots graduate from pilot training at Vance each year.

GENERAL REVIEW

The mission of the 71st Flying Training Wing is to deliver world-class U.S. pilots, develop resilient Airmen and families, deploy ready Airmen and demonstrate our “Vance Proud” culture. Vance is responsible for training Air Force student pilots for worldwide deployment and Aerospace Expeditionary Force support. The wing reports to Air Education and Training Command.

Pilot Training Transformation (PTT) is a new training curriculum, with Vance AFB being the first base to implement it at scale. PTT has two different tracks from which student pilots (SPs) will earn their wings.

The majority of SPs earn their wings through Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) 2.5, a three phase program that takes roughly 27 weeks. A new component of UPT 2.5 is the Immersive Training Device (ITD)—an affordable virtual reality (VR) aircraft simulator. These ITDs are embedded in the flying squadrons and provide unlimited high fidelity virtual training that enables students to consistently practice maneuvers outside the cockpit, thereby increasing the effectiveness and pace of each UPT sortie.

Phase I (preflight) is 44 days long and is split into two units: 147.3 hours of academic training and 72.9 hours of ground training. Academic training consists of aerospace physiology/human factors, T-6A Texan II systems, flying fundamentals, and an introduction to aerodynamics. Ground training includes emergency procedures, aircraft operating limitations, checklist usage, and local radio procedures. Immersive Training Devices (ITDs) are introduced in this phase and are used through the rest of the course.

Phase II (fundamental phase) and Phase III (mission phase) are accomplished over 90 training days in the T-6A Texan II, ITDs, and full simulators. Phase II introduces VFR flying, pattern work, unusual attitude recoveries, G-load training, departures/arrivals, navigation, low-level, and formation flying in isolation. Mission phase combines all of these items into profiles designed to challenge SPs and give them exposure to mission-realistic scenarios.

SPs graduate UPT 2.5 with 96 hours/60 sorties in the T-6 and 190.5 total hours in the T-6, ITDs, and ATDs. These winged aviators then proceed to train on either the T-1A Jayhawk (feeding into refueler/airlift) or the T-38C Talon (fighter/bomber).

Air Mobility Fundamentals (AMF-F) is a 75 day course where pilots fly the T-1A Jayhawk. The course entails 92 hours of academics, 13.6 hours of ground training, 32.8 sim hours, 9.6 hours in ITDs, and 42.8 flying hours over 24 sorties.

T-38 Pilot Training 2.5 is a course where pilots fly the T-38C Talon. The course takes 100 days for those bound for bombers and 108 for future fighter pilots. The course entails 110.2 hours of academics, 38.1 hours of ground training, 30.4 sim hours, 45.5 ITD hours, and 81.9 hours/68 sorties for bombers and 89.1 hours/74 sorties for fighters.

A smaller number of SPs will earn their wings through the “Accelerated Path to Wings” (XPW). XPW students will only fly the T-1A Jayhawk and earn their wings after approximately 7 months. These winged aviators will then feed into mobility/airlift airframes. Over this time SPs will complete 29 sims (73.4 hours) and 50 flights (89.7 hours). As with UPT 2.5, Vance AFB is the first installation to scale XPW, and the 71st FTW is coordinating with units at Randolph AFB to further refine the XPW syllabus.

Vance Air Force Base is named for Lt. Col. Leon R. Vance, a local World War II hero and Medal of Honor recipient. Originally a flight school that trained more than 9,000 pilots for the Army Air Corps between 1941 and 1945, the base was activated Jan. 13, 1948 within the Air Training Command of the newly formed Air Force.

Vance was the first base in AETC to have extensive civilian contractor support for base functions ranging from operational functions such as aircraft maintenance to support functions such as child care services. The support contract began in 1960 with award to Serv-Air. Northrop Worldwide Aircraft Services was awarded the follow-on contract when it was competed in 1972. On Feb. 1, 2001, the next contract was awarded to DynCorp Technical Services. Computer Sciences Corporation purchased Dyncorp Technical Services and assumed contract performance in 2005. Computer Sciences Corporation received award of the next contract in 2008. In 2013 Pacific Architects and Engineers purchased Computer Sciences Corporation and assumed performance of the contract. In December 2014 a separate contract for Flying Operations Support was issued to L-3 Communications Vertex Aerospace while Pacific Architects and Engineers continued support of Base Operating Support functions under a “bridge contract. A separate Base Operating Support contract was competed and awarded in May 2016 to Arctic Slope Regional Corporation Communications. In 2019 Vertex Aerospace was divested from L-3 Communications and assumed responsibility as Vertex Aerospace for performance of the Flying Operations Support contract.

POINT OF CONTACT

71st Flying Training Wing, Public Affairs Office, 246 Brown Parkway, Suite 206, Vance AFB, OK 73705-5028; (580) 213-5250



FACT SHEET



Vance AFB T-6A Texan II



MISSION

The T-6A Texan II is a single-engine, two-seat primary trainer designed to train Joint Primary Pilot Training, or JPPT, students in basic flying skills common to U.S. Air Force and Navy pilots.

FEATURES

Produced by Raytheon Aircraft, the T-6A Texan II is a military trainer version of Raytheon's Beech/Pilatus PC-9 Mk II.

Stepped-tandem seating in the single cockpit places one crewmember in front of the other, with the student and instructor positions being interchangeable. A pilot may also fly the aircraft alone from the front seat. Pilots enter the T-6A cockpit through a side-opening, one-piece canopy that has demonstrated resistance to bird strikes at speeds up to 270 knots.

The T-6A has a Pratt & Whitney Canada PT6A-68 turbo-prop engine that delivers 1,100 horsepower. Because of its excellent thrust-to-weight ratio, the aircraft can perform an initial climb of 3,100 feet (944.8 meters) per minute and can reach 18,000 feet (5,486.4 meters) in less than six minutes.

The aircraft is fully aerobatic and features a pressurized cockpit with an anti-G system, ejection

seat and an advanced avionics package with sunlight-readable liquid crystal displays.

BACKGROUND

Before being formally named in 1997, the T-6A was identified in a 1989 Department of Defense Trainer Aircraft Master Plan as the aircraft portion of the Joint Primary Aircraft Training System, or JPATS. The system includes a suite of simulators, training devices and a training integration management system.

On Feb. 5, 1996, Raytheon was awarded the JPATS acquisition and support contracts. The first operational T-6A arrived at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, in May 2000. The full rate production contract was awarded in December 2001. Air Force production of the aircraft was completed in 2010.

The T-6A is used to train JPPT students, providing the basic skills necessary to progress to one of four training tracks: the Air Force bomber-fighter or the Navy strike track, the Air Force airlift-tanker or Navy maritime track, the Air Force or Navy turboprop track and the Air Force-Navy helicopter track.

Instructor pilot training in the T-6A began at Randolph in 2000. JPPT began in October 2001 at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., and is currently at Columbus AFB, Miss., Vance AFB, Okla, and Laughlin AFB and Sheppard AFB in Texas.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Primary Function: Entry-level trainer in joint primary pilot training

Builder: Raytheon Aircraft Co.

Powerplant: 1,100 horsepower Pratt & Whitney Canada PT6A-68 turbo-prop engine

Wingspan: 33.5 feet (10.19 meters)

Length: 33.4 feet (10.16 meters)

Height: 10.7 feet (3.23 meters)

Speed: 320 miles per hour

Standard Basic Empty Weight: 6,500 pounds (2,955 kilograms)

Ceiling: 31,000 feet (9448.8 meters)

Range: 900 nautical miles (1,667 kilometers)

Crew: Two, student pilot and instructor pilot

Armament: None

Date Deployed: May 2000

Unit Cost: \$4.272 million

Inventory: Active force, 446 aircraft



FACT SHEET



Vance AFB T-1A Jayhawk



MISSION

The T-1A Jayhawk is a medium-range, twin-engine jet trainer used in the advanced phase of specialized undergraduate pilot training for students selected to fly airlift or tanker aircraft. It is also used to support navigator training for the U.S. Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and international services.

FEATURES

The swept-wing T-1A is a military version of the Beech 400A. It has cockpit seating for an instructor and two students and is powered by twin turbofan engines capable of an operating speed of 538 mph. The T-1A differs from its commercial counterpart with structural enhancements that provide for increased bird strike resistance and an additional fuselage fuel tank.

BACKGROUND

The first T-1A was delivered to Reese Air Force Base, Texas, in January 1992, and student training began in 1993. Vance AFB received its first T-1A in 1995.

Starting in 1993, undergraduate pilots who have graduated from their primary aircraft have proceeded to specialized training tailored for their follow-on assignments. The T-1A is used in advanced training for students identified to go into airlift or tanker aircraft. Those selected for bombers and fighters receive their advanced in the T-38.

The T-1A is used at Columbus AFB, Miss., Laughlin AFB, Texas, and Vance AFB, Okla. It is also used at Randolph AFB, Texas, to train instructor pilots and at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., for combat systems officer training.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Primary Function: Advanced trainer for airlift and tanker pilots

Builder: Raytheon Corp. (Beech)

Power Plant: Two Pratt and Whitney JT15D-5B turbofan engines

Thrust: 2,900 pounds each engine

Length: 48 feet, 5 inches (14.75 meters)

Height: 13 feet, 11 inches (4.24 meters)

Wingspan: 43 feet, 6 inches (13.25 meters)

Maximum Speed: 538 miles per hour (Mach .78)

Ceiling: 41,000 feet (12,500 meters)

Maximum Takeoff Weight: 16,100 pounds (7,303 kilograms)

Range: 2,222 nautical miles (2,900nm flying long-range cruise)

Armament: None

Crew: Three (pilot, co-pilot, instructor pilot)

Date Deployed: February 1992

Unit Cost: \$4.1 million

Inventory: Active force, 178; ANG, 0; Reserve, 0



FACT SHEET



Vance AFB T-38C Talon



MISSION

The T-38 Talon is a twin-engine, high-altitude, supersonic jet trainer used in a variety of roles because of its design, economy of operations, ease of maintenance, high performance and exceptional safety record. Air Education and Training Command is the primary user of the T-38 for joint specialized undergraduate pilot training. Air Combat Command, Air Force Materiel Command and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration also use the T-38A in various roles.

FEATURES

The T-38 has swept wings, a streamlined fuselage and tricycle landing gear with a steerable nose wheel. Two independent hydraulic systems power the ailerons, rudder and other flight control surfaces. Critical aircraft components are waist high and can be easily reached by maintenance crews.

The T-38C incorporates a "glass cockpit" with integrated avionics displays, head-up display and an electronic "no drop bomb" scoring system. The AT-38B has a gun sight and practice bomb dispenser.

The T-38 needs as little as 2,300 feet (695.2 meters) of runway to take off and can climb from sea level to nearly 30,000 feet (9,068 meters) in one minute. T-38s modified by the propulsion modernization program have approximately 19 percent more thrust, reducing takeoff distance by 9 percent.

The instructor and student sit in tandem on rocket-powered ejection seats in a pressurized, air-conditioned cockpit.

BACKGROUND

Air Education and Training Command uses the T-38C to prepare pilots for front-line fighter and bomber aircraft such as the F-15E Strike Eagle, F-15C Eagle, F-16 Fighting Falcon, B-1B Lancer, A-10 Warthog and F-22 Raptor.

The Talon first flew in 1959. More than 1,100 were delivered to the Air Force between 1961 and 1972 when production ended. As the T-38 fleet has aged, specific airframe, engine and system components have been modified or replaced. Pacer Classic is the name given to a sustainment program that integrates essential modifications, and includes major structural replacements into one process.

AETC began receiving T-38C models in 2001 as part of the Avionics Upgrade Program. T-38C models will also undergo a propulsion modernization program which replaces major engine components to enhance reliability and maintainability, and an engine inlet/injector modification to increase available takeoff thrust. These upgrades and modifications, with the Pacer Classic program, should extend the service life of T-38s to 2020.

Advanced JSUPT students fly the T-38C in aerobatics, formation, night, instrument and cross-country navigation training.

Test pilots and flight test engineers are trained in T-38s at the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Air Force Materiel Command uses the T-38 to test experimental equipment such as electrical and weapon systems.

Pilots from most North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries train in the T-38 at Sheppard AFB, Texas, through the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration uses T-38 aircraft as trainers for astronauts and as observers and chase planes on programs such as the space shuttle.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Primary Function: Advanced jet pilot trainer

Builder: Northrop Corp.

Power Plant: Two General Electric J85-GE-5 turbojet engines with afterburners

Thrust: 2,050 pounds dry thrust; 2,900 with afterburners

Thrust (with PMP): 2,200 pounds dry thrust; 3,300 with afterburners

Length: 46 feet, 4 inches (14 meters)

Height: 12 feet, 10 inches (3.8 meters)

Wingspan: 25 feet, 3 inches (7.6 meters)

Speed: 812 mph (Mach 1.08 at sea level)

Ceiling: Above 55,000 feet (16,764 meters)

Maximum Takeoff Weight: 12,093 pounds (5,485 kilograms)

Range: 1,093 miles

Armament: T-38A/C: none; AT-38B: provisions for practice bomb dispenser

Unit Cost: \$756,000 (1961 constant dollars)

Crew: Two, student and instructor

Date Deployed: March 1961

Inventory: Active force, 546; ANG, 0; Reserve 0



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL CHARLES D. THROCKMORTON IV

Colonel Charles D. Throckmorton IV is the Commander, 71st Flying Training Wing, Vance Air Force Base, Okla. He leads a wing of over 2,700 personnel conducting specialized undergraduate pilot training for more than 300 U.S. Air Force and Allied student pilots each year. The wing operates a fleet of over 200 aircraft, flies more than 55,000 sorties and logs over 80,000 flying hours each year. He is also responsible for executing \$550 million in flying and base operations contracts.

Colonel Throckmorton was born in Atlanta, Georgia and was commissioned in 2000 as a graduate of the ROTC program at the University of Georgia. He completed Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus Air Force Base in 2002 and has served in a variety of positions at the squadron, group, wing, and headquarters level to include commanding the 9th Airlift Squadron and as the Deputy Operations Group Commander at Dover Air Force Base. Prior to his current assignment, Colonel Throckmorton served as the 60th Operations Group Commander, Travis Air Force Base, California. Colonel Throckmorton is a command pilot with more than 2,300 hours supporting operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and New Dawn.



EDUCATION

2000 Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, University of Georgia
2000 Aerospace Basic Course, Maxwell-Gunter AFB, Ala.
2007 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell-Gunter AFB, Ala.
2007 Master of Science in Aeronautical Sciences, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
2009 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
2014 Air War College, by correspondence
2014 Certificate in Legislative Studies, Georgetown University's Government Affairs Institute
2014 Capitol Hill Fellowship
2019 Master of Science in National Resource Strategy with a concentration in Supply Chain Management, The Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy

ASSIGNMENTS

1. July 2000–June 2001, Mobility Officer, Robins AFB, Ga.
2. July 2001–August 2002, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, Columbus AFB, Miss.
3. September 2002–June 2005, Scheduler, Standardization and Evaluation Liaison Officer, Chief of Training, Executive Officer and C-21 Instructor Aircraft Commander, Offutt AFB, Neb.
4. July 2005–August 2009, Flight Commander, Chief of Squadron Safety, Wing Flight Safety Officer, Chief of Wing Flight Safety, Chief of Pilot Training and C-5 Instructor Aircraft Commander, Dover AFB, Del.
5. September 2009–June 2012, Assistant Executive Officer to the Commander Air Mobility Command, Special Action Officer Commander's Action Group, Executive Officer to Director of Operations, and Chief of Airlift Training Branch, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Ill.
6. June 2012–December 2014, Legislative Fellow, Washington, D.C.
7. April 2015–July 2016; Operations Officer, 436th Operations Support Squadron, Dover AFB, Del.
8. July 2016–January 2018, Commander, 9th Airlift Squadron, Dover AFB, Del.
9. January 2018–June 2018, Deputy Commander, 436th Operations Group, Dover AFB, Del.
10. June 2018–June 2019, The Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, National Defense University, Washington, D.C.

11. June 2019–August 2020, Chief of House Congressional Affairs, U.S. European Command, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
12. August 2020–July 2021, Foreign Affairs Specialist, Office of Detainee Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
13. July 2021–July 2023, Commander, 60th Operations Group, Travis AFB, Calif.
14. July 2023-Present, Commander, 71st Flying Training Wing, Vance AFB, Okla.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight Hours: More than 2,500

Aircraft Flown: T-37, T-1, C-21A, C-5A/B/C/M, KC-10, C-17

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with oak leaf cluster

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with oak leaf cluster

Combat Readiness Medal with oak leaf cluster

National Defensive Service Medal

Iraqi Campaign Medal with oak leaf cluster

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal

Air Force Expeditionary Service Medal with gold border

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant June 18, 2000

First Lieutenant June 18, 2002

Captain June 18, 2004

Major June 1, 2010

Lieutenant Colonel February 1, 2015

Colonel January 1, 2021

(Current as of July 2023)



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT F. BRANDON SMITH

CMSgt Brandon Smith is the Command Chief Master Sergeant, 71st Flying Training Wing, Vance Air Force Base, Okla. He advises the commander on the mission effectiveness, professional development, military readiness, training, utilization, health, morale, and welfare for over 2,600 total force personnel.

Additionally, Chief Smith serves as the functional manager for the wing's Senior Enlisted Leaders and First Sergeants. Through his leadership and deliberate development of the force, Team Vance conducts specialized undergraduate pilot training for more than 400 U.S. Air Force and Allied student pilots annually, operating a fleet of over 200 aircraft, flying more than 55,000 sorties and logging over 80,000 flying hours each year.

Chief Smith entered the Air Force in February 1999 and graduated the Survival Evasion Resistance Escape (SERE) Specialist Training Course in December of the same year. His Air Force background includes diverse duties in the SERE career field, the Combat and Mobility Air Forces, the Nuclear Enterprise and the Joint Communities as a MAJCOM Functional Manager, Combatant Command Program Manager, Joint Senior Enlisted Advisor and Group Senior Enlisted Leader. In addition, he has deployed globally in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, ENDURING FREEDOM – PHILIPPINES and INHERENT RESOLVE and has completed overseas tours in Japan, Hawaii and the United Kingdom.



Prior to assuming his current position, he served as the Group Senior Enlisted Leader, 100th Operations Group, RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom.

EDUCATION

- 1999 SERE Specialist Training Course, Fairchild AFB, Wash.
- 2003 Airmen Leadership School, Fairchild AFB, Wash.
- 2003 Associate Degree, Survival Instructor, Community College of the Air Force
- 2003 Occupational Instructor Certification, Community College of the Air Force
- 2005 AIRBORNE Jumpmaster Course, Fort Benning, Ga.
- 2006 SERE Craftsman's Course, Fairchild AFB, Wash.
- 2006 Military Freefall Jumpmaster Course, Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz.
- 2010 Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education I (Correspondence)
- 2012 Noncommissioned Officer Academy Correspondence Course
- 2012 Bachelors of Arts, International and Transnational Security, American Military University
- 2015 Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Maxwell-Gunter AFB, Ala.
- 2015 Professional Manager Certification, Community College of the Air Force, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2016 Master of Arts, Leadership & Management, Webster University, Ill.

2016 Master of Arts, Human Resource Development, Webster University, Ill.
2017 Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education II (Correspondence)
2019 Chief Master Sergeant Leadership Course, Maxwell-Gunter AFB, Ala.
2021 Senior Enlisted Legal Orientation Course (SELO), Maxwell AFB, Ala.
2021 Command Chief Candidate Course, Washington D.C.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. May 1999 – December 1999, Student, SERE Specialist Training, 66th Training Squadron, Fairchild AFB, Wash.
2. January 1999 - June 2004, Water Survival & Field Training Instructor; Enlisted Specialty Trainer, 22nd Training Squadron, Fairchild AFB, Wash.
3. June 2004 - October 2007, NCOIC, Stan/Eval; Parachuting Operations NCOIC, Detachment 2/66 Training Squadron, NAS Pensacola, Fla.
4. October 2007 - October 2009, Test Parachutist, 418th Flight Test Squadron, Edwards AFB, Calif.
5. October 2009 - October 2013, Wing SERE Program NCOIC, Wing Weapons and Tactics Flight Chief, 35th Operations Support Squadron, Misawa AB, Japan
6. October 2013 - June 2016, Flight Chief, Bravo Flight; Field Training Operations Superintendent, 22nd Training Squadron, Fairchild AFB, Wash.
7. June 2016 - August 2018, PACAF SERE MAJCOM Functional Manager, HQ Pacific Air Forces, JBPH-H, Hawaii
8. August 2018 – July 2019, J3 & AFELM Senior Enlisted Advisor; SERE Program Manager, HQ U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii
9. July 2019 - March 2021, Superintendent, 90th Operations Group, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo.
10. March 2021 – June 2022, Senior Enlisted Leader, 100th Operations Group, RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom
11. June 2022 – Present, Command Chief Master Sergeant, 71st Flying Training Wing, Vance AFB, Okla.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters Joint Service Commendation Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters Joint Service Achievement Medal
Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster Nuclear Deterrence Operations Medal
Afghanistan Campaign Medal with bronze star Iraq Campaign Medal with bronze star
Joint Meritorious Unit Award Meritorious Unit Award
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with three oak leaf clusters Air Force Recognition Ribbon

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

1999 USAF Basic Training Honor Graduate
1999 SERE Specialist Training Cadre Award
2003 Distinguished Graduate, Airman Leadership School
2006 Air Education and Training Command Master Instructor
2010 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, 35th Operations Group
2012 John I. Levitow Award, Noncommissioned Officer Academy
2013 SERE Specialist Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, U.S. Air Force
2013 Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, 35th Fighter Wing
2015 Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, 22nd Training Squadron
2015 Distinguished Graduate, USAF Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy
2016 SERE Specialist Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Pacific Air Forces

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Chief Master Sergeant 1 June 2018

(Current as of July 2022)



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL MATTHEW A. ASTROTH

Colonel Matthew A. Astroth is the Vice Wing Commander of the 71st Flying Training Wing, Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma. The wing consists of more than 2,700 personnel conducting specialized undergraduate pilot training for more than 400 U.S. Air Force and allied student pilots each year. The wing operates more than 200 aircraft, flies more than 49,000 sorties annually, and logs more than 71,000 flying hours each year.

Colonel Astroth graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 2000. Following pilot training he flew medical evacuation support missions in the C-9A from Yokota Air Base, Japan and airlift support in the C-21A from Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs. He was later assigned to Air Force Special Operations Command where he served as a command pilot accumulating over 1200 combat hours in the AC-130U/W gunships in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, and INHERENT RESOLVE. Also during this time, he was the deployed mission commander for operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He finished his time in Air Force Special Operations Command as the commander of the 551 Special Operations Squadron at Cannon Air Force Base and as Deputy Group Commander of the 492 Special Operations Training Group at Hurlburt Field, Florida. Before Air War College, he served as an instructor at the Leadership Development Course for Squadron Command at the Ira C. Eaker Center for Professional Development at Maxwell Air Force Base.



EDUCATION

2000 Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.

2000 Aerospace Basic Course, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

2005 Squadron Officers School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

2006 Masters of Business Administration, Trident University International, Calif.

2013 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

2021 Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. February 2001 – June 2002, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Laughlin AFB, Texas

2. June 2002 – October 2003, Pilot C-9A, Yokota Air Base, Japan

3. October 2003 – December 2005, Instructor Pilot, C-21A, Peterson AFB, Colo.

4. December 2005 - August 2012, Evaluator Pilot AC-130U, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

5. August 2012 – June 2013, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

6. June 2013 – June 2015, Strategic Planner, Joint Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C.

7. June 2015 – June 2016, Assistant Operations Officer, 16 Special Operations Squadron, Cannon AFB, N.M.

8. June 2016 – May 2018, Operations Officer, 551 Special Operations Squadron, Cannon AFB, N.M.

9. May 2018 – November 2019, Commander, 551 Special Operations Squadron, Cannon AFB, N.M.

10. November 2019 – June 2020, Deputy Group Commander, 492 Special Operations Training Group, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
11. June 2020 – July 2021, Instructor, Eaker Center Leadership Development Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
12. July 2021 – August 2022, Student, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
13. August 2022 – Present, Vice Wing Commander, Vance Air Force Base, Okla.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Aviator's Post No. 743 Valor Award
Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Air Medal with 9 oak leaf clusters
Joint Service Commendation Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 29, 2000
First Lieutenant May 29, 2002
Captain May 29, 2006
Major June 1, 2012
Lieutenant Colonel April 1, 2017
Colonel June 1, 2021

(Current as of August 2022)