



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL JOSEPH A. WATSON

Colonel Joseph A. Watson serves as the A6 - Director of Communications, Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber), Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. Sixteenth Air Force provides full-spectrum decision advantage to joint warfighters and national leaders through globally integrated cyberspace operations, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, targeting, electromagnetic warfare, information operations, warfighter communications, and weather operations to deliver information warfare capabilities and outcomes. As the Director, he is responsible for communications, cybersecurity and information technology policy, guidance, and resource advocacy for command and control, mission and weapon systems, intelligence systems, and global information warfare activities supporting combatant commands, air components, coalition partners, nine wings, one technical center and an operations center. Col Watson commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps, University of North Texas in 2002, and is a Cyberspace Officer and Political Military Affairs Specialist. He was most recently dual hatted as the Deputy Commander, 26th Cyberspace Operations Group, and Deputy Director A589, 688th Cyberspace Wing, He was formerly the Commander, 612th Air Communications Squadron. He has led Airmen at the Squadron, Joint Communications J6, Detachment Commander, NAF Division Chief, and Director of Operations levels. Col Watson has served in various assignments and deployments in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, and US Forces Afghanistan, and multiple other named operations.



EDUCATION

2002 Bachelors - Computer Science, University of North Texas, Denton, TX
2003 Basic Communications Officer Training, Keesler AFB, MS
2003 Aerospace Basics Course - Maxwell AFB, AL
2006 Information Technology Management, and International Management MBA, Touro University International, CA
2007 Squadron Officer School - Maxwell AFB, AL
2015 Marine Corps Command and Staff College – Group Session, Kaneohe Bay Marine Corp Base, HI
2016 Master of Military Operational Art and Science from Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
2018 Contingency Wartime Planning Course
2018 Air War College – Correspondence

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Oct 2002 - Oct 2003: Chief Mission Systems Flight, Laughlin AFB, TX
2. Oct 2003 - May 2004: Officer in Charge, Maintenance Support, Laughlin AFB, TX
3. May 2004 - May 2005: Executive Officer, 47th Operations Group, Laughlin AFB, TX
4. May 2005 - Oct 2005: Flight Commander, Information Systems Flight, Laughlin AFB, TX
5. Oct 2005 - Sep 2006: Satellite Communications Officer, Air Force Communications Agency (AFCA), Scott AFB, IL – Deployed to Al Udeid AB, as Radio Over IP Routed Network, Lead Engineer (5 mos)
6. Sep 2006 - Sep 2008: Air Force Active Directory and Exchange Program Manager, AFCA, Scott AFB, IL – Deployed as J6 Director of Communications, Office of Defense Representative, Pakistan (8 mos)
7. Sep 2008 – Aug 2009: Deputy Branch Chief, Enterprise Services, AFCA, Scott AFB, IL
8. Aug 2009 – Jul 2010: Education With Industry Officer – IBM, Herndon, VA

9. Jul 2010 – Jan 2011: Division Chief, Communications Operations, 17 AF, Ramstein AB, Germany – Deployed as Knowledge Management Director for CJTF-HOA, Djibouti. Africa (3 mos)
10. Jan 2011 – Jul 2013: Director of Operations, Ramstein AB, Germany
11. Jul 2013 – Jan 2015: Commander, 690 NSS Det 4 – Enterprise Service Desk, Hickam AFB, HI
12. Jan 2015 – Jul 2015: Chief, Operations Standardization, 690 COG, Hickam AFB, HI
13. Jul 2015 – Jun 2016: Student, Air Force Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
14. Jun 2016 – Jul 2017: Division Chief, Theater Security Cooperations, 12 AF/A5I, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ
15. Jul 2017 – Jul 2018: Deputy POLAD, International Affairs Specialist, 12 AF/A589, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ
16. Jul 2018 – Jul 2020: Commander, 612th Air Communications Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ
17. Jul 2020 – Mar 2023: Deputy Commander, 26th Cyberspace Operations Group, Joint Base San Antonio, TX
18. Mar 2023 – Present: Director of Communications -A6, 16AF, Joint Base San Antonio, TX

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Cluster
Joint Service Commendation Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters
Air Force Achievement Medal

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2006 Company Grade Officer of the Year, Secretary of the Air Force, Warfighter Integration (SAF/XC)
2012 AFCEA Distinguished Young AFCEAN Award
2014 Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Agency (AFCEA) Emerging Leader Award
2018 Twelfth Air Force (AFSOUTH) Language Enabled Airman of the Year

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

| | |
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| Second Lieutenant | 2002 |
| First Lieutenant | 2004 |
| Captain | 2006 |
| Major | 2012 |
| Lieutenant Colonel | 2016 |
| Colonel | 2023 |

(Current as of Nov 2023)