



# BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

## COLONEL ERIC S. SMITH

Col. Eric Smith is the Deputy Commander of the 116th Air Control Wing, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. He is responsible for leading the wing through conversion from the worldwide employment of the E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System to actualizing the Advanced Battle Management System, revolutionizing the speed of battlefield decision-making, and supporting Department of Defense Joint All-Domain Command and Control initiatives. The wing trains, mobilizes and deploys combat mission ready personnel and equipment to designated theaters of operation and conducts sustained operations providing uninterrupted command and control to support the Joint Force Air Component Commander.

The Colonel was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Valdosta State University, Georgia in May 2001. He earned his navigator wings from the Joint Specialized Undergraduate Navigator Training Program at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas in April 2002. He then moved to Robins Air Force Base, Georgia where he has continued flying on the E-8C. In 2007, Colonel Smith joined the 116th Air Control Wing and has served in a variety of positions at the squadron, group, and wing levels including Wing Executive Officer, Director of Operations of the 116th Operations Support Squadron Commander of the 129th Combat Training Squadron and Deputy Commander of the 116th Operations Group.



Colonel Smith is a master navigator and has accumulated over 3,400 flying hours, including more than 700 instructor/evaluator hours. He also has more than 1,600 combat hours supporting numerous contingency operations including SOUTHERN WATCH, ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, NEW DAWN, INHERENT RESOLVE, and FREEDOM'S SENTINEL. Prior to assuming his current position, the Colonel was the Commander, 116th Operations Group, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia.

## EDUCATION

- 2001 Bachelor of Business Administration, Business Management, Valdosta State University, Ga.
- 2008 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 2012 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2016 Masters of Business Administration, Project Management, Grantham University, Mo.
- 2020 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence

## ASSIGNMENTS OR CAREER CHRONOLOGY

1. June 2001 - April 2002, Student, Joint Specialized Undergraduate Navigator Training, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas
2. May 2002 - November 2002, Student, 330th Combat Training Squadron, Robins AFB, Ga.
3. December 2002 - May 2004, Navigator, 12th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, Robins AFB, Ga.





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4. June 2004 - December 2006, Assistant Chief of Scheduling/Executive Officer/Chief of Training, 330th Combat Training Squadron, Robins AFB, Ga.
5. January 2007 - September 2007, Evaluator Navigator, 16th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, Robins AFB, Ga.
6. October 2007 - May 2009, Commander, 116th Services Flight, Robins AFB, Ga.
7. June 2009 - December 2009, Director of Operations, 116th Force Support Squadron, Robins AFB, Ga.
8. January 2010 - November 2010, Instructor Navigator, 128th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, Robins AFB, Ga.
9. December 2010 - May 2013, Flight Commander, 128th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, Robins AFB, Ga.
10. June 2013-September 2014, Chief Wing Scheduling, 116th Operations Support Squadron, Robins AFB, Ga.
11. October 2014-December 2015, Executive Officer, 116th Air Control Wing, Robins AFB, Ga.
12. December 2015-June 2017, Assistant Director of Operations, 116th Operations Support Squadron, Robins AFB, Ga.
13. June 2017-June 2018, Director of Operations, 129th Combat Training Squadron, Robins AFB, Ga.
14. June 2018-November 2019, Director of Operations, 116th Operations Support Squadron, Robins AFB, Ga.
15. November 2019-April 2021, Commander, 129th Combat Training Squadron, Robins AFB, Ga.
16. April 2021-May 2022, Deputy Commander, 116th Operations Group, Robins AFB, Ga.
17. May 2022-Jul 2024, Commander, 116th Operations Group, Robins AFB, Ga.
18. July 2024-present, Deputy Commander, 116th Air Control Wing, Robins AFB, Ga.

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Master Navigator

Flight Hours: More than 3,400, including 1,679 combat hours

Aircraft Flown: T-43, T-1, E-8C

## MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement medal

Air and Space Commendation Medal

Meritorious Unit Award with three oak leaf clusters

Air and Space Outstanding Unit Award with Valor and four oak leaf clusters Combat Readiness Medal with three oak leaf clusters

National Defense Service Medal Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one service star Iraq Campaign Medal with one service star Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal with one service star Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Air and Space Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border and four oak leaf clusters

Air and Space Longevity Service Award with four oak leaf clusters Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon

Air and Space Training Ribbon

## EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 30, 2001

First Lieutenant May 30, 2003

Captain May 30, 2005

Major August 16, 2009

Lieutenant Colonel August 16, 2016

Colonel September 1, 2022

(Current as of March 2025)

