



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL JOSEPH C. TURNHAM

Col Joseph C. Turnham is the Commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Train, Advise, Assist Command-Air and the 438th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group in Kabul, Afghanistan. In these roles he leads a 1,251-person joint, coalition, and contract team from 13 nations in training, advising, and assisting Afghanistan with developing an independent, integrated, and professional Air Force.

Colonel Turnham comes from a long line of veterans dating back to the American Revolution. After growing up in the Air Force he received his commission through Officer Training School. Since then he has served three operational tours in the Pacific, one in Europe, and six combat tours in the Middle East. Colonel Turnham is a joint service officer who has commanded at the flight, squadron, and group levels. He is a command pilot with 3,300 hours in the A-10, including more than 1,100 combat hours over Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria.



EDUCATION

- 1995 Bachelors of Chemistry, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C.
- 2006 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2009 United States Air Force Weapons Instructor Course, Nellis AFB, Nev.
- 2011 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2011 Masters of Military Operational Art & Science, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2013 Joint and Combined Warfighting School, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.
- 2014 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2018 Fellow, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
- 2019 National Security Fellow, Maxwell School of Public Affairs, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Apr 00 - Mar 02, Student Pilot, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Sheppard AFB, Texas
2. Apr 02 - Oct 02, A-10 Student Pilot, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
3. Nov 02 - Jun 05, A-10 Flight Lead and Battalion Air Liaison Officer, Eielson AFB, Alaska
4. Jul 05 - Jul 08, A-10 Evaluator Pilot and Flight Commander, Spangdahlem AB, Germany
5. Jul 08 - Jul 10, A-10 Instructor Pilot and Operational Test Pilot, Nellis AFB, Nev.
6. Jul 10 - Nov 12, Chief Instructor Pilot and Flight Commander, Osan AB, Republic of Korea
7. Nov 12 - Dec 14, Deputy Division Chief & Executive officer, US Northern Command, Peterson AFB, Colo.
8. Jan 15 - Mar 17, Commander, 357th Fighter Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
9. Mar 17 - Jul 17, Deputy Group Commander, 355th Operations Group, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
10. Jul 17 - Jul 18, Fellow, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
11. Jul 18 - Jul 19, Director of Joint Training and Exercises, 9th Air Force, Shaw AFB, S.C.
12. Jul 19 - Sep 19, Vice Wing Commander, 438th Air Expeditionary Wing, Kabul, Afghanistan
13. Oct 19 - Present, Commander, NATO Train Advise Assist Command-Air, Kabul, Afghanistan

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: 3,642
Combat hours: 1,149
Aircraft flown: A-10, A-29, AC-208
Primary aircraft: A-10C

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters
Air Medal with thirteen oak leaf clusters
Aerial Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster
Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters
Air Force Combat Action Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant	7 April 2000
First Lieutenant	7 April 2002
Captain	7 April 2004
Major	1 November 2009
Lieutenant Colonel	1 December 2013
Colonel	1 May 2018

(Current as of June 2020)