



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL JOSEPH C. TURNHAM

Col Joseph C. Turnham is the Commander of the 355th Wing, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. He is responsible for one of the largest installations and flying operations in the United States Air Force, with 34 mission partners, more than 46,000 personnel, 152 aircraft, and 51 billion dollars in assets. He is responsible for organizing, training, and equipping a wing comprised of 25 squadrons. The wing provides A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft for close air support and forward air control, combat support, and medical forces for combatant commander requirements worldwide. The 355th Wing also provides combat search and rescue personnel recovery capabilities through the employment of HC-130J Combat King IIs, HH-60G Pave Hawks, and Guardian Angel weapon systems. The wing has units at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. and Nellis AFB, Nev. The 355th Wing is also responsible for training A-10C pilots for the entire Total Force, and is the Air Combat Command executive agent for Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces and Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty compliance.



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 3,642 hours in the A-10, including more than 1,149 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 Air Force Base, 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. April 2000 – March 2002, Student Pilot, Undergraduate Pilot Training, 80th Operations Support Squadron, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas
2. April 2002 – October 2002, A-10 Student Pilot, 355th Training Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
3. November 2002 – June 2005, A-10 Flight Lead and Battalion Air Liaison Officer, 81st Fighter Squadron, Eielson AFB, Alaska
4. July 2005 – July 2008, A-10 Evaluator Pilot and Flight Commander, 81st Fighter Squadron, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany
5. July 2008 – July 2010, A-10 Instructor Pilot and Operational Test Pilot, 422d Test and Evaluation Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nev.
6. July 2010 – November 2012, Chief Instructor Pilot and Flight Commander, 25th Fighter Squadron, Osan AB, Republic of Korea
7. November 2012 – December 2014, Deputy Division Chief & Executive officer, US Northern Command, Peterson AFB, Colo.
8. January 2015 – March 2017, Commander, 357th Fighter Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
9. March 2017 – July 2017, Deputy Group Commander, 355th Operations Group, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

10. July 2017 – July 2018, Fellow, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
11. July 2018 – July 2019, Director of Joint Training and Exercises, 9th Air Force, Shaw AFB, S.C.
12. July 2019 – September 2019, Vice Wing Commander, 438th Air Expeditionary Wing, Kabul, Afghanistan
13. October 2019 – May 2020, Commander, NATO Train Advise Assist Command-Air, Kabul, Afghanistan
14. June 2020 – Present, Commander, 355th Wing, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: more than 3,642 (including more than 1,149 combat hours)

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

(Current as of July 2020)