



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAMIEN T. JOHNSON

Lieutenant Colonel Damien T. Johnson is the Commander, Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) Detachment 800, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. As professor and Department Chair of Aerospace Studies, he commands a diverse unit of officer, enlisted, and university employees to recruit, educate, train, and commission officer candidates through the AFROTC program and its affiliated crosstown school.

Lt Col Johnson was commissioned in 2006 as a graduate of the University of Tennessee ROTC program. In his previous flying assignments, Lt Col Johnson served in multiple Major Commands at the squadron, group, and wing levels. In his previous staff assignments, he performed various strategy planning and guidance duties at United States Air Forces Europe-Africa (USAFE) and Air Forces Central Command (AFCENT). Prior to this assignment, he served as the Director of Operations for the 5th Combat Training Squadron, USAFE Warfare Center. In this capacity he helped lead USAFE's only live, virtual, and constructive training portfolios for U.S. and NATO fighter aircrews, tactical air controllers, command & control units, and MQ-9 operators.



Lt Col Johnson is a Senior Weapon System Officer with over 2,000 flight hours and has served as an Instructor and Flight Examiner in the B-1B and T-1A. He has operational experience in Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and NEW DAWN and over 1,000 combat hours.

EDUCATION

- 2006 B.S., Journalism, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN
- 2013 M.S., Logistics, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona, FL
- 2020 M.S., Military Art and Operational Science, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL

ASSIGNMENTS

1. November 2006 – October 2008, Student, Joint Specialized UNT, Pensacola NAS, FL
2. October 2008 – May 2009, Student, B-1 Formal Training Unit, Dyess AFB, TX
3. May 2009 – May 2011, Scheduler & Chief of Training, 37th Bomb Squadron, Ellsworth AFB, SD
4. May 2011 – September 2014, Chief of Evaluations, 37th Bomb Squadron, Ellsworth AFB, SD
5. September 2014 – May 2016, Executive Officer, 451st Flying Training Squadron, Pensacola NAS, FL
6. May 2016 – June 2017, Dep. Chief of Evaluations, 479th Flying Training Group, Pensacola NAS, FL
7. June 2017 – March 2018, Special Assistant to the Commander, 479th FTG, Pensacola NAS, FL

8. March 2018 – June 2019, Fellow, Air University, Maxwell AFB, AL
9. June 2019 – September 2020, IDE Student, JADS Concentration, Maxwell AFB, AL
10. September 2020 – September 2021, Strategy Officer (Europe), A35, Ramstein AB, DE
(January 2021 – July 2021, Chief, Strategic Plans, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar & Shaw AFB, SC)
11. September 2021 – March 2022, Director of Staff, 603d Air Operations Center (USAFE-AFAFRICA)
12. March 2022 – July 2023, Director of Operations, 5th Combat Training Sq, Einsiedlerhof AB, DE
13. August 2023 – present, Commander, AFROTC Detachment 800, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Senior Navigator

Flight Hours: Over 2,000; including more than 1,000 combat hours

Aircraft flown: B-1, T-1, T-6

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with one device

Air Medal with three oak clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2007 Distinguished Graduate, B-1 Formal Training Unit, Dyess AFB, Texas

2011 Air Force Global Strike Command Fairchild Trophy (Best Bomb Wing)

2012 Bomb Squadron Instructor WSO of the Year

2016 Flying Training Wing Instructor CSO of the Year

2017 Air Education Training Command Master Instructor

PUBLICATIONS

"Terahertz Technologies and Future Security Environments," Over the Horizon Journal, February 2020

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 12, 2006

First Lieutenant May 12, 2008

Captain May 12, 2010

Major May 1, 2016

Lieutenant Colonel January 1, 2021

(Current as of August 2023)