



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHARLES “CREED” NAPIER

Lt Col Charles Napier is Commander of the 21st Student Squadron at Air University’s Air Command and Staff College (ACSC), Maxwell Air Force Base Alabama. He leads 250 active, reserve, guard, sister service and international officers and civilians through a rigorous mid-career graduate program focused on developing air-minded joint leaders.

Lt Col Napier entered the Air Force in May 2006 through the US Air Force Academy. He completed pilot training in 2007 and went on to fly the HH-60G Pavehawk, conducting Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) and Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) missions while based in Okinawa, Japan and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base (AFB), Arizona. He held positions as weapons and tactics officer and exercise planner, leading Angel Thunder, the world’s largest, multinational rescue exercise. Lt Col Napier also served as an exchange officer to France, performing similar missions while piloting the HM-225 Caracal. After graduating from ACSC, Lt Col Napier attended Stanford University where he earned a PhD in International Relations. Prior to his current position, Lt Col Napier was the A3 / Associate Dean for Operations at ACSC.



Lt Col Napier has 1,478 flight hours, primarily in the HH-60G, and deployed three times to Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in 2009, 2010, and 2012, saving over 130 lives. In addition, Lt Col Napier deployed twice with the French Air Force to Chad and Niger in support of Operation BARKHANE in 2015 and 2016.

EDUCATION

2006 Bachelor’s Degree in Systems Engineering Mechanics, USAF Academy, Colorado Springs, CO
2006 Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell AFB, AL
2011 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, AL
2013 Associate of Arts in French, Defense Language Institute, Monterey, CA
2014 Masters of Business Administration (MBA) with International Business specialization, University of Nebraska – Lincoln (UNL)
2018 Masters of Art in Military Operational Art and Science, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
2023 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in International Relations, Stanford University, Stanford, CA
2025 AETC Squadron Leadership Course, Randolph AFB, TX
2025 Leader Development Course, Maxwell-Gunter AFB, AL

ASSIGNMENTS OR CAREER CHRONOLOGY

1. June 2006 – March 2007, Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, 33rd Flying Training Squadron, Vance AFB, OK
2. March 2007 – December 2007, Student, Helicopter Pilot Training, 23rd Flying Training Squadron, Ft. Rucker, AL
3. January 2007 – June 2008, Student, HH-60G Pilot Training, 512th Rescue Squadron, Kirtland AFB, NM
4. June 2008 – June 2010, Weapons & Tactics Officer, 33rd Rescue Squadron, Kadena AB, Okinawa, Japan
5. June 2010 – June 2011, Weapons & Tactics Officer, 55th Rescue Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ





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6. June 2011 – August 2012, Group Weapons & Tactics Officer, 563 Operation Support Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ
7. August 2012 – May 2013, Chief of Plans, 55th Rescue Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ
8. May 2013 – March 2014, French Student, Defense Language Institute, Presidio of Monterey, CA
9. April 2014 – July 2017, HM225 Pilot / Assistant Director of Operations for Plans, EH 1/67 Pyrénées, Cazaux Air Base, France
10. July 2017 – June 2018, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
11. June 2018 – April 2019, Instructor, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
12. April 2019 – July 2020, Executive Officer, Jeanne M. Holm Center, Maxwell AFB, AL
13. August 2020 – June 2023, PhD Student, Stanford University, Stanford CA
14. June 2023 – April 2024, Assistant Professor / Deputy Chair, Department of International Security, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
15. April 2024 – May 2025, A3 / Associate Dean for Operations, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
16. June 2025 – Present, Commander, 21st Student Squadron, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Senior Pilot

Flight hours: 1,478

Aircraft flown: T-6, UH-1, HH-60G, HM-225

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Distinguished Flying Cross with valor

Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster

Air Medal with fifteen oak leaf clusters

Air and Space Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Combat Action Medal

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2006 Distinguished Graduate, US Air Force Academy

2006 Top Graduate in Systems Engineering Mechanics, US Air Force Academy

2007 "Top Stick" Helicopter Pilot Training

2012 Jolly Green Association Mission of the Year

2013 Honors Graduate, Defense Language Institute

2014 Jabara Award for Airmanship

2017 French National Defense Medal - Gold

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 31, 2006

First Lieutenant May 31, 2008

Captain May 31, 2010

Major May 1, 2016

Lieutenant Colonel Jan 1, 2021

(Current as of June 2025)

