



# BIOGRAPHY



## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### CHAPLAIN, COLONEL JONATHAN T. RUNNELS

Chaplain, Colonel Jonathan T. Runnels currently serves as Commandant, Air Force Chaplain Corps College, Ira C. Eaker Center for Leadership Development, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama. He leads an elite team of 24 Total Force Chaplains and Religious Affairs Airmen and one civilian Airmen on behalf of the Air Force Chief of Chaplains Office. The College trains and educates the nearly 2000 chaplains and religious affairs airmen for the active duty, Air Reserve, and Air Guard components to provide worship, liturgies, religious rights, and spiritual care of all Air and Space professionals and their families while also serving as the primary advisor to commanders and senior enlisted leaders on moral spiritual ethical and religious matters.



Chaplain Runnels is endorsed by the Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries of the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church. He entered the Air Force Chaplain Corps in 2004 after serving 11 years in the civilian pastorate. Before his current assignment, Chaplain Runnels most recently served as a student at Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, Deputy Chief of Personnel, Budget, and Readiness, Office of the Chief of Chaplains, Headquarters United States Air Force, Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia, Wing Chaplain, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, and Deputy Commandant, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

### EDUCATION

1993 Bachelor of Social Work, Oakwood University, Huntsville, Ala.  
1998 Master of Divinity, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich.  
2004 Officer Training School, Maxwell AFB, Ala. 2005 Basic Chaplain Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.  
2006 Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.  
2007 Clinical Pastoral Education, Brook Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas  
2009 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.  
2019 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence  
2023 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence  
2025 Master of Strategic Studies, Air War College, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

### ASSIGNMENTS

1. November 2004 - June 2007, Protestant Chaplain, 21st Space Wing, Peterson AFB, Colo.
2. June 2007 - June 2008, Chaplain Resident, Brook Army Medical Center, Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.
3. June 2008 - January 2011, Protestant Chaplain, 23rd Wing, Moody AFB, Ga.
4. January 2011 - August 2013, Chaplain, 502d Air Base Wing, JBSA Lackland, Texas
5. August 2013 - December 2014, Chaplain, 717th Air Base Squadron, Ankara, Turkey

6. December 2014 - March 2017, Group Chaplain, 517th Training Group, Presidio of Monterey, Calif.
7. March 2017 - August 2019, Deputy Wing Chaplain, 412th Test Wing, Edwards AFB, Calif.
8. August 2019 - June 2020, Staff Chaplain, Air Force Chaplain Corps College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
9. June 2020 - October 2021, Deputy Commandant, Air Force Chaplain Corps College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
10. October 2021 - June 2023, Wing Chaplain, 502d Air Base Wing, JBSA Randolph, Texas
11. June 2023 - June 2024, Deputy Personnel, Budget, and Readiness, Office of the Chief of Chaplains, Pentagon, Arlington, Va.
12. June 2024 - present, Student, Air War College, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Meritorious Service Medal with one silver oak leaf cluster  
Joint Service Commendation Medal  
Air and Space Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters  
Army Commendation Medal  
Air and Space Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster  
Meritorious Unit Award with one oak leaf cluster  
Air and Space Outstanding Unit Award with three oak leaf clusters  
Air and Space Organizational Excellence Award  
National Defense Service Medal  
Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one service star  
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal  
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal  
Air and Space Expeditionary Service Ribbon with gold border and oak leaf cluster  
Air and Space Longevity Service with four oak leaf clusters  
Air and Space Training Ribbon  
NATO Medal with one device with one service star

### **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

First Lieutenant 15 July 2004  
Captain 15 July 2005  
Major 1 February 2016  
Lieutenant Colonel 1 May 2020  
Colonel 1 February 2025

(Current as of 17 August 2025)