



# BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

## CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JOSHUA R. “JOSH” TIDWELL

CMSgt Joshua R. Tidwell serves as Commandant Air Force Senior NCO Academy. Maxwell Air Force Base, Gunter Annex, Alabama. As the Senior Enlisted Leader (SEL), he champions the deliberate development of 2,600 SELs and Chief students annually from across the U.S. Air Force Total Force, Sister Services, and International Partners. His duties include the development and oversight of the Academy’s 25-day course, and its’ 53 instructors. This course encompass the topics of organizational leadership, national military & airpower strategy, and integrated deterrence for strategic competition. These modules culminate in a joint warfighting capstone focused on whole-of-government solutions for pacing threats. Additionally, AFSNCOA delivers air-minded educational solutions via mobile education teams for allies and partners, informs HQ-AF EPME Policy, and supports Joint Staff J-7 initiatives that foster development of the United States Armed Force’s SNCO and Chief Petty Officer Ranks.

Chief Tidwell was raised in Pell City, Alabama. After graduation from Pell City High School, he left home on February 24, 1999 for Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. There, he attended Basic Military Training followed by the Air Transportation Apprentice Course from which he graduated in May 1999. After his formative years as an aerial porter, Chief Tidwell has served in various capacities ranging from squadron level to component command, including five years as a first sergeant and four years as a command chief, with eight deployments in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH, ENDURING FREEDOM, and IRAQI FREEDOM.



## EDUCATION

- 2001 Airman Leadership School, Kapaun Air Station, Germany
- 2005 Associate of Applied Science, Business Management, Community College of the Air Force
- 2006 Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Maxwell AFB, Gunter Annex, Ala.
- 2008 Professional Manager’s Certification, Community College of the Air Force
- 2011 Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Maxwell AFB, Gunter Annex, Ala.
- 2011 First Sergeant Academy, Maxwell AFB, Gunter Annex, Ala.
- 2011 Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education Course, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.
- 2012 Associate of Applied Science, Human Resources Management, Community College of the Air Force
- 2016 Chief Leadership Course, Maxwell AFB, Gunter Annex, Ala.
- 2017 Enlisted Professional Military Education Instructor Course, Gunter AFB, Ala.
- 2019 Command Chief Master Sergeants Training Course, Bolling AFB, Washington D.C.
- 2019 Bachelor of Science Degree, Psychology – Life Coaching, Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.
- 2019 Transnational Issues, Alan L. Freed Associates, Washington, D.C.
- 2020 Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education Course II, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.
- 2020 Senior Enlisted Legal Orientation, The Judge Advocate General’s School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2020 Leading Strategically, Center for Creative Leadership, Colorado Springs, Co.





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2022 Eurasia Seminar, Alan L. Freed Associates, Washington, D.C.  
2022 Enterprise Perspective Seminar, Alan L. Freed Associates, Washington, D.C.  
2023 Artificial Intelligence for National Security Leaders, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge Mass.  
2023 Air Force Strategic Leader Course, Maxwell AFB, Gunter Annex, Ala.  
2023 Keystone, National Defense University, Washington, D.C.  
2025 Nominative Leader Course, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

## ASSIGNMENTS

1. February 1999 – Apr 1999, Trainee, Basic Military Training, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas
2. April 1999 – May 1999, Trainee, Air Transportation Apprentice Course, Lackland AFB, Texas
3. June 1999 – June 2001, Ramp Services Specialist, 436 Aerial Port Squadron, Dover AFB, Delaware
4. June 2001 – June 2003, Passenger Service Specialist, 723 Air Mobility Squadron, Ramstein AB, Germany
5. June 2003 – October 2005, Combat Readiness Instructor, 20 Logistics Readiness Squadron, Shaw AFB, South Carolina
6. October 2005 – July 2011, NCOIC, Airlift Operations, AFCENT Headquarters, Shaw AFB, South Carolina (August 2009 – July 2010, Operations Superintendent, 455 Expeditionary Aerial Port Squadron, Bagram AB, Afghanistan)
7. August 2011 – October 2013, First Sergeant, 1 Maintenance Squadron, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia
8. December 2013 – July 2014, First Sergeant, 633 Medical Group, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia
9. August 2014 – April 2015, First Sergeant, 52 Equipment Maintenance Squadron, Spangdahlem AB, Germany
10. April 2015 – August 2016, First Sergeant, 52 Logistics Readiness Squadron, Spangdahlem AB, Germany
11. August 2016 – August 2017, Superintendent, 60 Aerial Port Squadron, Travis AFB, California
12. August 2017 – May 2020, Vice Commandant Air Force Senior NCO Academy, Maxwell AFB, Gunter Annex, Alabama
13. May 2020 – June 2022, Command Chief, 366 Fighter Wing, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho
14. June 2022 – June 2024, Command Chief, 48 Fighter Wing, RAF Lakenheath, England
15. June 2024 – Present, Commandant, Air Force Senior NCO Academy, Maxwell AFB, Gunter Annex, Alabama

## MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit Medal with one bronze oak leaf cluster  
Bronze Star Medal  
Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with one silver oak leaf cluster  
Air Force Commendation Medal with two bronze oak leaf clusters  
Army Commendation Medal  
Air Force Achievement Medal with three bronze oak leaf clusters

## OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2001 Senior Airman Below the Zone  
2003 Airman Leadership School John L. Levitow Award  
2006 Air Combat Command Airlift/Tanker Association Halvorsen Award  
2006 NCO Academy Distinguished Graduate  
2008 9th Air Force HQ NCO of the Year  
2009 Airlift/Tanker Association 12 Young Leader Award  
2011 SNCO Academy John L. Levitow Award  
2011 First Sergeant Academy Top Graduate Award  
2013 Air Combat Command/First Sergeant of the Year 2012  
2015 Maintenance Group First Sergeant of the Year 2014

## EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Airman Aug. 25, 1999





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Airman First Class June 25, 2000  
Senior Airman Aug. 25, 2001  
Staff Sergeant June 1, 2003  
Technical Sergeant July 1, 2006  
Master Sergeant July 1, 2009  
Senior Master Sergeant March 1, 2012  
Chief Master Sergeant March 1, 2016  
(Current as of May 2024)

