



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

DR. STEPHEN RENNER

Dr. Stephen Renner is an AD-25 Department of the Air Force civilian serving as Associate Professor of Strategy and Director of Research and Electives at the Air War College (AWC), Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. He teaches the core Foundations of Strategy and Contemporary Strategy courses and airpower-related electives.

Dr. Renner was commissioned as an AFROTC Distinguished Graduate while completing a BA in Political Science at the University of Louisville. After earning his wings at Columbus AFB, he became an A/OA-10 fighter pilot and forward air controller. He was an A-10 instructor and evaluator pilot in squadrons in the US and Korea. He commanded the 25th Fighter Squadron at Osan AB, ROK, and was the vice commander of the 355th Fighter Wing at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ. He was selected as an Olmsted Scholar in 1999 and studied at the Budapest University of Economic Sciences. His final active-duty assignment was as a professor of strategy at the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies at Maxwell AFB, AL. Immediately following retirement after 26 years of service, Dr. Renner returned to flying for the USAF as a contract MC-12W pilot in Afghanistan. He joined AWC as a civilian professor in 2021. Prior to his current position, he was the chair of the AWC Department of Strategy.



EDUCATION

1992 Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, cum laude, University of Louisville, KY
2001 Master of International Public Policy, w/ honors, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, D.C.
2006 Master of Operational Art and Science, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
2007 Master of Airpower Art and Science, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, AL
2008 Air War College by correspondence
2014 D.Phil in Modern History, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

CAREER CHRONOLOGY

1. June 1993 – September 1994, Undergraduate Pilot Training and Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals, 14th Flying Training Wing, Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.
2. October 1994 – March 1995, A-10 Basic Course, 357th Fighter Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
3. May 1995 – August 1996, A/OA-10 Flight Lead and Forward Air Controller, 25th Fighter Squadron, Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea
4. September 1996 – July 1998, A/OA-10 Flight Lead and Forward Air Controller, 81st Fighter Squadron, Spangdahlem AB, Germany
(Battalion Air Liaison Officer, 1st Infantry Division and 1st Armored Divisions, Bosnia-Hercegovina)
(A-10 Flight Lead, Al Jaber AB, Kuwait)





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5. August 1998 – June 1999, Hungarian Language Student, Foreign Service Institute, Washington, D.C.
6. July 1999 – July 2001, Olmsted Scholar, University of Economic Sciences, Budapest, Hungary
7. August 2001 – June 2002, Student, School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, D.C.
8. July 2002 – July 2005, A/OA-10 Instructor and Evaluator Pilot, 74th Fighter Squadron, Pope AFB, North Carolina (A-10 Flight Lead, Talil AB, Iraq)
9. August 2005 – June 2006, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
10. July 2006 – June 2007, Student, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
11. July 2007 – June 2008, Military Analyst, Air Force Research Institute, Maxwell AFB, Alabama (Deputy Director of Political-Military Affairs, Combined Security Transition Command, Kabul, Afghanistan)
12. July 2008 – August 2011, Director of Operations and Commander, A-10 Instructor and Evaluator Pilot, 25th Fighter Squadron, Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea
13. September 2011 – June 2014, PhD Candidate in Modern History, University of Oxford, United Kingdom
14. July 2014 – July 2016, Vice Commander, A-10 Instructor Pilot, 355th Fighter Wing, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona
15. August 2016 – July 2019, Professor of Strategy, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, Alabama (Deputy Joint Air Command and Control Element; Chief of Staff, 1st Infantry Division Forward, Erbil IAP, Iraq)
16. August 2019 – February 2021, MC-12W Pilot-in-Command, AFSOC Contract, Bagram and Kandahar Air Bases, Afghanistan
17. March 2021 - November 2021, Director, Air Force Negotiation Center, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
18. November 2021 – July 2025, Chair, Department of Strategy, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: 3,200+

Aircraft flown: A/OA-10A/C, T-37, A/T-38, MC-12W (as civilian contractor)

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

French National Defense Medal, Gold

Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster

Bronze Star

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster

Air Medal with oak leaf cluster

Aerial Achievement Medal with eleven oak leaf clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal

Army Commendation Medal with Remote Combat device

Air Force Achievement Medal

Army Achievement Medal

Joint Meritorious Unit Award with oak leaf cluster

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with three oak leaf clusters

Combat Readiness Medal

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Iraq Campaign Medal with service star

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal with service star

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Korean Defense Service Medal

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

1988 National Merit Scholar

1999 Olmsted Scholar, University of Economic Sciences, Budapest, Hungary





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PUBLICATIONS

Broken Wings: The Hungarian Air Force 1918-1945, Indiana University Press, 2016

“From Ally to Auxiliary: The Royal Hungarian Air Force and the Luftwaffe in World War II,” in S. Paget, *Allies in Air Power: A History of the Multinational Air Operations*, University Press of Kentucky, 2021

“Air Power in the Battle of Mosul,” in P. Haun et al, *Air Power in the Age of Primacy: Air Warfare since the Cold War*, Cambridge University Press, 2022

“US and Coalition Air Power in Afghanistan,” P. Haun et al, *Air Power in Counterinsurgency and Counterterrorism since 9/11*, Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

(Current as of Dec 2025)





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