



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT AUSTIN SUTTON

Chief Master Sergeant Austin R. Sutton is an instructor at the Chief Leadership Academy. This role is not just teaching; they're shaping the newest Chief Master Sergeants. After the curriculum revamp, the Academy covers everything from doctrine to critical thinking. Beyond the classroom, they're an advisor to the Commandant for instructional standards, training strategies, and forward-thinking academic innovation, ensuring the Academy stays ahead of the curve for future missions.

Chief Sutton was born and raised in Pendleton, Indiana where he graduated from Pendleton Heights High School. After moving to Foley, Alabama, he enlisted in the Air Force and graduated Security Forces Technical training in 2006. Following this, he held positions from response force member to unit trainer before crossflowing to Air Traffic Control in 2012. As an Air Traffic Controller, he has served positions from line controller to several Chief Controller roles. Finally, Sergeant Sutton has several joint deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and Freedom's Sentinel.



Prior to his current position, Chief Sutton served as the 4th Operations Support Squadron Senior Enlisted Leader, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina.

EDUCATION

2009 Airman Leadership School, Keesler AFB, Mississippi
2012 Master Trainer Certification Program, International Sports Science Association
2013 Associate Degree, Criminal Justice, Community College of the Air Force
2014 Associate Degree, Air Traffic Control Operations and Management, Community College of the Air Force
2014 Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education I, Joint Knowledge Online
2015 Noncommissioned Officer Academy Correspondence, Course 15, Non-Residence
2015 Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Course 14, Non-Residence
2015 Professional Management Certification, Community College of the Air Force
2017 Bachelor of Science, Business Administration and Management, Waldorf University
2017 Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education II, Joint Knowledge Online
2020 Masters of Business Administration-Finance, Columbia Southern University
2022 United States Sergeants Major Academy, Fort Bliss, Texas

ASSIGNMENTS

1. April 2006 - June 2006, Student, Basic Military Training School, Lackland AFB, TX
2. June 2006 - September 2006, Student, Security Forces Technical Training, Lackland AFB, TX
3. September 2006 - September 2008, Response Force Member, 100 SFS, RAF Mildenhall, England
(January - September 2007, Response Force Leader, 586th ESFS, Camp Bucca, Iraq)
4. September 2008 - May 2012, Unit Trainer & Corrections Supervisor, 81 SFS, Keesler AFB, MS
(February - October 2010, Security Controller, 455th ESFS, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan)

5. May 2012 - September 2012, Student, Air Traffic Control Technical Training, Keesler AFB, MS
6. September 2012 - March 2017, Watch Supervisor Tower & RAPCON, 96 OSS, Eglin AFB, FL
7. March 2017 - March 2018, Assistant ATC Chief Controller, 65 OSS, Lajes Field, Portugal
8. March 2018 - July 2021, Tower Chief Controller, 100 OSS, RAF Mildenhall, England
(April - November 2019, NCOIC Tactical Monitoring Cell, ODRP, Islamabad, Pakistan)
9. July 2021 - June 2022, Student, United States Sergeants Major Academy, Fort Bliss, TX
10. June 2022 – February 2023, Radar Chief Controller, 97 OSS, Altus AFB, OK
11. February 2023 – July 2023, Senior Enlisted Leader, 97th Medical Group, Altus AFB, OK
12. July 2023 – July 2025, Senior Enlisted Leader, 4th OSS, Seymour Johnson AFB, NC
13. July 2025 – Present, Instructor, Chief Leadership Academy, Maxwell AFB-Gunter Annex, AL

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal
Army Commendation Medal
Joint Service Commendation Medal
Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster
Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2006 Distinguished Graduate, Security Forces Technical Training
2008 100th Security Forces Squadron, Senior Airman Below-the-Zone
2009 Distinguished Graduate, Airman Leadership School
2009 Academic Achievement, Airman Leadership School
2012 Distinguished Graduate, Air Traffic Technical Training
2015 Air Force Material Command, Air Traffic Controller of the Year
2017 65th Air Base Group, Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year
2018 100th Air Refueling Wing Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year
2018 Team Mildenhall Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year
2022 Distinguished Graduate, United States Army Sergeants Major Academy

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Chief Master Sergeant October 1, 2023

(Current as of August 2025)