



BIOGRAPHY



U.S. AIR FORCE

COLONEL NEIL P. OAKDEN

Colonel Neil P. Oakden is the Director of Theater Security Cooperation, United States Air Forces Central Command, Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina. He leads security cooperation efforts in support of USCENTCOM's Theater Campaign Plan aimed at building partnerships across USCENTCOM's area of responsibility. Efforts include development of integrated air and missile defense plans and capabilities with partner nations and US components; planning and executing exercises that support theater training and building partner capacity and developing engagement strategy and country plans that support building partnerships.

Colonel Oakden entered the Air Force in 1992 after graduating from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University with a Bachelor's Degree in Aeronautical Engineering. He has served as a Deputy Group Commander, Squadron Commander, Squadron Operations Officer, Wing Chief of Safety, Wing Inspector General, and Wing Director of Staff. Colonel Oakden is a command pilot with more than 2,400 flying hours, including more than 50 hours of combat time.



EDUCATION

1992 Bachelor of Science degree, aeronautical engineering with minor in mathematics, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Fla.

1996 Master of Science degree, human resources management, Troy State University, Troy, Ala.

1999 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2003 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala. (correspondence)

2008 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala. (correspondence)

ASSIGNMENTS

1. May 1993 – July 1994, Student Air Traffic Control Officer, Shaw AFB, S.C.
2. July 1994 – December 1996, Chief, Air Traffic Control Operations, Shaw AFB, S.C.
3. December 1996 – December 1997, Undergraduate Pilot Training Student, Columbus AFB, Miss.
4. December 1997 – March 1998, Student Pilot, Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals, Columbus AFB, Miss.
5. March 1998 – January 1999, Student Pilot, F-16 Initial Qualification, Luke AFB, Ariz.
6. January 1999 – September 2000, F-16 Pilot and Chief of Squadron Programming, 23rd Fighter Squadron, Spangdahlem AB, Germany
7. September 2000 – March 2001, F-16 Pilot and Chief of Plans and Readiness, 23rd Fighter Squadron, Spangdahlem AB, Germany
8. March 2001 – January 2002, F-16 Pilot and Flight Commander, 23rd Fighter Squadron, Spangdahlem AB, Germany
9. January 2002 – August 2004, Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals T-38C Instructor Pilot and Assistant Director of Operations, 49th Fighter Training Squadron, Moody AFB, Ga.
10. August 2004 – July 2005, T-38C Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Instructor Pilot and Chief, Commander's Action Group, 479th Fighter Training Group, Moody AFB, Ga.
11. July 2005 – October 2005, F-16 Pilot and Assistant Director of Operations, 524th Fighter Squadron, Cannon AFB, N.M.
12. October 2005 – March 2006, F-16 Pilot and Wing Chief of Staff, 27th Fighter Wing, Cannon AFB, N.M.
13. March 2006 – July 2006, F-16 Pilot and Inspector General, 27th Fighter Wing, Cannon AFB, N.M.
14. July 2006 – August 2007, F-16 Pilot and Director of Wing Inspections, 27th Fighter Wing, Cannon AFB, N.M.
15. August 2007 – June 2009, F-16 Pilot and Inspector General, 20th Fighter Wing, Shaw AFB, S.C.
16. June 2009 – November 2010, F-16 Instructor Pilot and Chief of Wing Safety, 8th Fighter Wing, Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea

17. June 2010 – July 2012, T-38C Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Instructor Pilot and Director of Operations, 49th Fighter Training Squadron, Columbus AFB, MS
18. June 2012 – July 2013, T-38C Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Instructor Pilot and Commander, 49th Fighter Training Squadron, Columbus AFB, MS
19. July 2013– May 2014, T-38C Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Instructor Pilot and Deputy Commander, 14th Operations Group, Columbus AFB, MS
20. May 2014 – July 2015, Air Force and Air Defense Security Assistance Team Chief, Office of Security Cooperation, US Embassy, Baghdad, Iraq
21. July 2015 – Present, Director, Theater Security Cooperation, United States Air Forces Central Command, Shaw AFB, SC

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight Hours: Over 2,400

Aircraft Flown: T-37, T-38A, AT-38B, T-38C and F-16C/D blocks 25/30/40/50

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Air Medal

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Joint Service Achievement Medal

Air Force Achievement Medal

Joint Meritorious Unit Award

Meritorious Unit Award

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with nine oak leaf clusters

Combat Readiness Medal with two oak leaf clusters

National Defense Service Medal with star

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Southwest Asia Service Medal with star

Kosovo Campaign Medal

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Korean Defense Service Medal

NATO Medal

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Air Force Association (life member)

Order of Daedalians (life member)

Red River Valley Fighter Pilot's Association (life member)

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTIONS

Second Lieutenant	Dec. 2, 1992
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First Lieutenant	Dec. 2, 1994
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Captain	Dec. 2, 1996
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Major	May 1, 2003
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Lieutenant Colonel	May 1, 2008
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Colonel	Aug. 1, 2014
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(Current as of September 2015)