



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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COLONEL THOMAS E. GRIFFITH, JR.

Colonel Thomas E. Griffith, Jr. is commandant, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. He is responsible for educating officers to become strategists in the art and science of air and space warfare in order to enhance the Air Force's capacity to defend the United States through the control and exploitation of air and space.

Colonel Griffith was formerly the commander of the 39th Support Group, Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. He had previous flying assignments at Osan Air Base, Korea; Ramstein Air Base, Germany; and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C. At Seymour Johnson, the colonel was a flight evaluator and flight commander before transitioning to the F-15E in 1988. He deployed in August 1990 for Operation Desert Shield and flew in the initial air strikes of Operation Desert Storm. On Jan. 19, 1991, his F-15E was shot down. After evading Iraqi forces for two days, he was captured and held as a prisoner of war for the remainder of the war. After repatriation and recovery he attended graduate school at the University of North Carolina and earned a doctoral degree in history. The colonel has also served in staff positions with the Air Force chief of staff's operations group and as a special assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

EDUCATION:

- 1979 Bachelor of science degree in history, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- 1983 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 1992 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. (distinguished graduate)
- 1992 Master of arts degree in history, University of Alabama
- 1993 School of Advanced Airpower Studies, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 1996 Doctorate of philosophy degree in history, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C.
- 1998 National War College, Ft. McNair, Washington, D.C. (distinguished graduate)
- 2000 Seminar XXI, Foreign Policy and International Relations, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. July 1979 - Mar 1980, student, Undergraduate Navigator Training, Mather Air Force Base, Calif.
2. April 1980 - June 1980, Lead in Fighter Training, Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.
3. July 1980 - February 1981, F-4 training, Homestead Air Force Base, Fla.
4. March 1981 - February 1982, F-4 weapons systems officer, 36th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea
5. March 1982 – September 1985, instructor and flight evaluator, 526th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Ramstein Air Base, Germany
6. October 1985 – October 1986, Air Staff Training Program, vice chief of staff for International Affairs, Headquarters United States Air Force, Washington D.C.
7. November 1986 – June 1987, wing simulator training officer, 4th Tactical Fighter Wing, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.
8. June 1987 - November 1988, flight commander, 336th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.
9. November 1988 – January 1989, F-15E training, Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.
10. February 1989 – August 1991, assistant chief and later chief, standardization and evaluation division, 4th Fighter Wing, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.
11. August 1991 - June 1992, student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
12. July 1992 - June 1993, student, School of Advanced Airpower Studies, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
13. July 1993 - May 1996, AFIT Ph.D. student, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C.
14. May 1996 - July 1997, member and later deputy director, Air Force Chief of Staff's Operation Group, Headquarters United States Air Force, Washington D.C.
15. August 1997 - June 1998, student, National War College, Ft. McNair, Washington, D.C.
16. June 1998 - May 2000, special assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Pentagon, Washington D.C.
13. May 2000 – June 2002, commander, 39th Support Group, Incirlik Air Base, Turkey
14. June 2002 – present, commandant, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Master navigator

Flight Hours: More than 2,100 hours in F-4 and F-15E

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Defense Superior Service Medal

Distinguished Flying Cross

Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Purple Heart

Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Joint Service Achievement Medal

Prisoner of War Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant	May 30, 1979
First Lieutenant	May 30, 1981
Captain	May 30, 1983
Major	June 1, 1990
Lieutenant Colonel	Mar 1, 1994
Colonel	Sep 1, 1998

(Current as of June 2002)