



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL ANDREW VELAZQUEZ KATZ

Col. Andrew Velazquez Katz is the Vice Commander of the 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. The wing consists of 2,800 personnel conducting specialized undergraduate pilot training for more than 500 United States Air Force and allied student pilots each year. The wing operates 195 aircraft, consisting of the T-1A, T-6A and T-38C, and flies more than 66,000 hours and more than 44,000 sorties per year.

Col. Katz was born in East Los Angeles, CA and received his commission in 2000. He is a command pilot with more than 3,500 hours in the T-1, T-37, F-16, U-2 and KC-10A aircraft, including 104 combat air refueling missions in Operation IRAQI and ENDURING FREEDOM. He has held several key flying, operational, and strategic positions including two tours at Air Education Training Command and one as a Formal Training Unit (FTU) Instructor Pilot in combat air refueling. Prior to his current assignment, Col. Katz served as the Vice Commandant, Global College of Professional Military Education (GCPME) at Maxwell AFB, AL. He has also held multiple positions ranging from Chief of the KC-10 Formal Training Unit (FTU) at Travis Air Force Base, CA, Wing Director of Staff (DS) for the 37th Air Expeditionary Wing at Manas, Kyrgyz Republic, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff (COS) for the NATO Allied Joint Force Command in Naples, Italy, Commander of the 47th Operations Support Squadron at Laughlin AFB, TX, and Deputy Group Commander for the 47th Operations Group at Laughlin AFB, TX. Most recently, Col. Katz graduated from Air War College (AWC) where he served as Class President and key member of the HAP Arnold Executive Leadership Series for the AWC Class of 2021.



Col. Katz commissioned in 2000 having attended the United States Air Force Academy, Loyola Marymount University, and California State University (Dominguez Hills) in Los Angeles, CA.

EDUCATION

- 2000 Bachelor of Science, Applied Sciences
- 2006 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 2011 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
- 2011 Masters in Business Administration and Military Management, Trident University
- 2013 NATO PSYOPS (Psychological Operations) Course, Oberammergau, Germany
- 2014 NATO Defense Policy Course, Oberammergau, Germany
- 2015 Joint Forces Staff College, Joint & Combined Warfighting School (JCWS), JPME Phase II, Norfolk, Va.
- 2016 Pilot Instructor Training (PIT), Randolph AFB, Texas
- 2017 Safety Board President Course, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
- 2021 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala. (Class President and recipient of the Secretary of the Air Force Leadership Award)
- 2021 Masters in Strategic Studies, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. January 2000 - September 2000, F-16 Assistant Training Officer, 416th Flight Test Squadron, Edwards AFB, Calif.
2. September 2000 - April 2005, T-1 Check-Instructor/Function-Check-Flight Pilot, Assistant Flight Commander, 86th Flying Training Squadron, Laughlin AFB, Texas
3. April 2005 - December 2008, KC-10 Aircraft Commander, Chief Squadron Executive Officer/Flight Commander, 2nd Air Refueling Squadron, McGuire AFB, N.J.
4. December 2008 - December 2009, KC-10 Instructor Aircraft Commander, Chief of Training, 6th Air Refueling Squadron, Travis AFB, Calif.
5. March 2010 - March 2011, Chief, Wing Executive Officer/Commander's Action Group (CAG), 60th Air Mobility Wing, Travis AFB, Calif.
6. March 2011 - October 2011, Director of Staff (DS), 376th Air Expeditionary Wing, Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyz Republic.
7. November 2011 - January 2013, Chief, KC-10 Formal Training Unit (FTU), 60th Air Mobility Wing, Travis AFB, Calif.
8. February 2013 - April 2015, Executive Officer to the NATO Joint Force Command Assistant Chief of Staff, Operations (ACOS J3), Naples, Italy
9. April 2015 - June 2016, Executive Officer to the Chief of Staff (COS), NATO Joint Force Command, Naples, Italy
10. April 2017 - March 2018, Director of Operations, 47th Operations Support Squadron (47 OSS), Laughlin AFB, Texas
11. March 2018 - January 2020, Commander, 47th Operations Support Squadron (47 OSS), Laughlin AFB, Texas
12. February 2020 - July 2020, Deputy Commander, 47th Operations Group (47 OG), Laughlin AFB, Texas
13. July 2020 - May 2021, Student (Class President), Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
14. May 2021 - May 2022, Vice-Commandant, Global College of PME (GCPME), Maxwell AFB, Ala.
15. June 2022 - Present, Vice Wing Commander, 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin AFB, Texas

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. February 2013 - April 2015, Executive Officer to the NATO Joint Force Command Assistant Chief of Staff, Operations (ACOS J3), Naples, Italy
2. April 2015 - June 2016, Executive Officer to Chief of Staff, NATO Joint Force Command, Naples, Italy

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: More than 3,500 including over 900 combat hours in Operations IRAQI and ENDURING FREEDOM

Aircraft flown: T-37, T-1A, F-16, U-2, KC-135, KC-10A

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf clusters

Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with three oak leaf clusters

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

NATO Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant Jan. 20, 2000

First Lieutenant Jan. 20, 2002

Captain Jan. 20, 2004

Major Oct. 1, 2009

Lieutenant Colonel April 1, 2015

Colonel July 1, 2021

(CURRENT AS OF NOV 2022)