



# BIOGRAPHY



## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### COLONEL CRAIG D. PRATHER

Colonel Craig D. Prather is the Commander of the 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. The wing consists of more than 2,800 personnel conducting specialized undergraduate pilot training for more than 511 U.S. Air Force and allied student pilots each year. The wing operates 210 aircraft, consisting of the T-1A, T-6A and T-38C, and flies more than 83,800 flying hours and 57,100 sorties per year.

Colonel Prather is a 1999 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy. He has spent a majority of his career in the Special Operations community including several operational deployments in support of combat operations around the globe. Colonel Prather previously served as the Commander, 1st Joint Special Operations Air Component. 1st JSOAC conducts studies, training exercises, research, development, testing, evaluation, acquisition, and procurement to ensure interoperability among special operations forces, general purpose forces, and interagency and foreign partners. As the air component for JSOC, 1st JSOAC prepares assigned, attached, and augmentation forces, and when directed, conducts special operations against threats to protect the Homeland and U.S. interests abroad.



### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- 1999 Bachelor of Science in History, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO
- 2004 Squadron Officer School in Residence, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2006 Master of Arts in Organizational Science, The George Washington University, Washington D.C.
- 2007 Air Force Intern Program (IDE), Washington D.C
- 2009 Air Command and Staff College (In-Correspondence)
- 2014 Air War College (In-Correspondence)
- 2016 Master of Science in National Security Strategy, National War College, Ft. McNair, Washington D.C.

### ASSIGNMENTS

1. November 1999 – May 2000, Student Pilot, Undergraduate Pilot Training, 41st Flying Training Squadron, Columbus AFB, MS
2. May 2000 – Feb 2001, Distinguished Graduate, Student Pilot, Undergraduate Pilot Training-Helicopter, 23rd Flying Training Squadron, Ft Rucker, AL
3. Feb 2001 – Dec 2001, Distinguished Graduate, MH-53M Mission Pilot Qualification Course, 55181 Special Operations Squadron, Kirtland AFB, NM
4. Jan 2002 – Jun 2005, MH-53M Instructor Pilot, 21st Special Operations Squadron, RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom
5. July 2005 – July 2007, Air Force Intern, Pentagon, Washington, DC
6. July 2007 – Oct 2007, Air Ops Advisor, HQ Iraqi AF, Coalition Air Force Transition Team, Iraq
7. Oct 2007 – Jun 2008, Military Liaison to the Iraqi Minister of Defense, Multi-National Security & Transition Command-Iraq

8. July 2008 – Aug 2009, CV-22 Mission Pilot Initial Qualification, 71st Special Operations Squadron, Kirtland AFB, NM
9. Aug 2009 – Jul 2010, Student Flight Commander, CV-22 IP, 71st Special Operations Squadron, Kirtland AFB, NM
10. Jul 2010 – Jul 2011, Chief Stan/Eval, CV-22 EP, 20th Special Operations Squadron, Cannon AFB, NM
11. Jul 2011 – May 2013, Operations Officer, 33d Special Operations Squadron, Cannon AFB, NM
12. May 2013 – Jun 2015, Commander, 33d Special Operations Squadron, Cannon AFB, NM
13. Jul 2015 – Jul 2016, Distinguished Graduate, National War College, Fort McNair, Washington D.C.
14. Jul 2016 – Jul 2018, Deputy Commander, Special Operations Command Korea, USAG Yongsan, ROK
15. Jul 2018 – April 2020, Commander, 1st Joint Special Operations Air Component, Ft. Bragg, NC
17. April 2020 – July 2020, Student Pilot, Pilot Instructor Training T-6A, 12th Training Squadron, Randolph AFB, TX
18. July 2020 – Present, Commander, 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin AFB, TX

### **FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: More than 2,100

Aircraft flown: T-37B, TH-67, UH-1H, TH-53A, MH-53J/M, MV-22A, CV-22B, MQ-9B, T-6A

### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Defense Superior Service Medal

Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor

Bronze Star with One Oak Leaf Cluster

Meritorious Service Medal and Two Oak Leaf Clusters

Air Medal with Valor and Six Oak Leaf Clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster

Combat Action Medal

United States Air Force Cheney Award (2003)

United States Air Force Daedalian Exceptional Pilot Award (2004)

### **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant      June 1999

First Lieutenant        June 2001

Captain                  June 2003

Major                    Dec 2008

Lieutenant Colonel      Nov 2012

Colonel                  May 2017

*(Current as of July 2020)*