



# BIOGRAPHY

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### COLONEL AARON J. COOPER

Colonel Aaron J. Cooper is the Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) Director of Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. He advises the PACAF Commander on all ISR matters across the Indo-Pacific area of responsibility, the largest in the Defense Department.

Col. Cooper entered the Air Force in 1999, after earning his Bachelor of Science in Political Science and his commission from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He first served as the Chief of Intelligence for the 17th Special Operations Squadron in Okinawa, Japan, before assuming a Flight Commander position at the 303rd Intelligence Squadron, Osan Air Base, Korea. Following his squadron-level assignments, Col. Cooper served on the United States Air Forces in Europe staff including the position of the Executive Officer for the Director of Intelligence. In 2007, he was assigned as the Director of Air Force Special Operations Command's Intelligence Formal Training Unit, serving in a course leadership role, as well as instructor. Following his instructor assignment, Col. Cooper was selected as the Director of Operations for the 566th Intelligence Squadron for two years prior to attending Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. Upon graduation, he served at the Air Force Personnel Center, ultimately leading a team responsible for over three-thousand officer assignments.



After this staff tour, Col. Cooper assumed command of the 31st Intelligence Squadron at Fort Gordon, Georgia, leading over four hundred and fifty Airmen in providing 24/7 cryptologic support and actionable intelligence to national leaders and combat forces in United States Central Command, European Command, Africa Command, and Special Operations Command. From there, he was assigned as the Deputy Commander of the 691st Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group for two years helping to lead over 1,000 Airmen, before moving on as the Deputy Director of the Special Operations Command Cryptologic Office from 2019 to 2021 where he led a team providing cryptologic support and advanced training to Special Operations Forces worldwide. Col. Cooper has served on six deployments to locations including the Philippines, Djibouti, Qatar and Afghanistan.

#### EDUCATION

1999 Bachelor of Science, Political Science, United States Air Force Academy, Colo.  
2005 Squadron Officer's School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.  
2009 Air Command and Staff College, Air University via correspondence  
2010 Intelligence Master Skills Course, Goodfellow AFB, Texas  
2011 Master of Science, American Military University  
2012 Master of Military Operational Art and Science, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala.  
2017 Air War College, Air University via correspondence

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. October 1999–August 2000, Student, 315th Technical Training Squadron, Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas
2. August 2000–June 2001, Intelligence Applications Officer, 353rd Operations Support Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan
3. June 2001–November 2003, Chief Intelligence Officer, 17th Special Operations Squadron, Kadena AB, Japan
4. December 2003–June 2004, Flight Commander/Cryptologic Mission Crew Commander, 303rd Intelligence Squadron, Osan AB, Republic of Korea
5. June 2004–December 2004, Chief of Mission Management, 303rd IS, Osan AB, Republic of Korea
6. February 2005–June 2005, Chief of Exercise Plans, Headquarters United States Air Forces in Europe/A2, Ramstein AB, Germany
7. June 2005–May 2006, Chief, Intelligence Force Management, Headquarters United States Air Forces in Europe/A2, Ramstein AB, Germany
8. May 2006–May 2007, Executive Officer, Headquarters United States Air Forces in Europe/A2, Ramstein AB, Germany
9. May 2007–July 2009, Director, Air Force Special Operations Command Intelligence Formal Training Unit, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
10. July 2009–July 2011, Director of Operations, 566th IS, Buckley AFB, Colo.
11. July 2011–June 2012, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
12. June 2012–June 2013, Chief, Intelligence Company Grade Officer Assignments, Air Force Personnel Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas
13. June 2013–July 2015, Chief, Intelligence Officer Assignments, Air Force Personnel Center, JBSA-Randolph, Texas
14. July 2015–June 2017, Commander, 31st IS, Fort Gordon, Ga.
15. June 2017–August 2019, Deputy Commander, 691st Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group, Fort George G. Meade, Md.
16. August 2019–August 2021, Deputy Director, SOCOM Cryptologic Office, Fort George G. Meade, Md.
17. August 2021–January 2022, Student, Joint Military Attaché School, Washington, D.C.
18. January 2022–present, United States Air Attaché to India

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Bronze Star Medal  
Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster  
Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters  
Joint Service Commendation Medal  
Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster  
Air Force Achievement Medal  
Army Achievement Medal  
National Defense Service Medal with bronze star  
Afghanistan Campaign Medal with bronze star  
Global War on Terrorism Medal  
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Service Medal  
Korean Service Medal  
Air Force Expeditionary Ribbon with gold border with two oak leaf clusters  
Philippine Presidential Unit Citation  
NATO Medal

## **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant August 6, 1999  
First Lieutenant August 6, 2001  
Captain August 6, 2003  
Major June 1, 2009  
Lieutenant Colonel November 1, 2014  
Colonel October 1, 2020