



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL CRAIG M. COOPER

Col Craig M. Cooper is the Deputy Commander, 184th Wing, McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas. He advises the Wing Commander responsible for more than 1,300 Airmen who execute a broad spectrum of missions including intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, cyber and information operations, and command and control. In addition, the wing fields a full complement of mission and support functions including civil engineering, security forces, medical, logistics, communications, contracting, and force support.

Col Cooper enlisted in the Kansas Air National Guard in 1989. He graduated from Friends University in 1998, with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems then graduated with his Masters in Information Systems Management in 2001, and subsequently received his commission through the Academy of Military Science in 2004. Since commissioning, he has served as a Network Team Chief for the 177th Information Aggressor Squadron, a National Security Agency certified, USCYBERCOM accredited Cyber and Information Operations Red Team, the Chief of Maintenance for the 134th Air Control Squadron, the Director of Operations for both the 177th IAS and 127th COS Cyberspace Operations Squadron, and the Commander of the 127th COS 177th IAS and 184 Regional Support Group. Prior to his current position, he was the Commander of the 184th Cyberspace Operational Group, McConnell AFB KS.



Col Cooper has deployed in support of OPERATION NOBLE EAGLE and in support of numerous joint forces exercises at multiple locations throughout the world. Additionally, he deployed to Bagram AB, Afghanistan to support OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM as an Intel Officer assigned to International Security Assistance Force/Special Operations Force (ISAF/SOF). Furthermore, he deployed to Al Dhafra AB, United Arab Emirates in support of the Combined Defense of the Gulf, OPERATION RESOLUTE SUPPORT, and OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE. Finally, he served as the Team Lead for 856 Cyber Protection Team during the 127th COS first six-month activation in support of OPERATION GLADIATOR PHOENIX.

EDUCATION

- 1992 Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Preparatory Course, (by correspondence)
- 1997 NCO Academy, McGhee Tyson, TN
- 1998 Bachelor of Science, Computer Information Systems, Friends University, Wichita, KS
- 2001 Master's Degree, Information Systems Management, Friends University, Wichita, KS
- 2004 Officer Commissioning School, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2006 Communications Officer School, Keesler AFB, MS
- 2010 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2012 Air Command and Staff College, (by correspondence)
- 2019 Leader Development Course for Squadron Command, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2020 Air War College, (by correspondence)
- 2021 Commander Development Course
- 2025 Joint and Combined Warfighting School (JCWS-H) - Pending Oct 2025





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ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 1989 – July 1989, STUDENT, Basic Military Training, Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), TX
2. July 1989 – June 1990, STUDENT, Electronic Radar Maintenance Course, Keesler AFB, MS
3. June 1990 – October 2003, RADAR MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN, 134th Air Control Squadron, KSANG, McConnell AFB, KS
(November 2001 – September 2003, Deployed in support of OPERATION NOBEL EAGLE, various locations USA)
4. October 2003 – May 2004, COMPUTER SYSTEM TECNICIAN, 177th Information Warfare Aggressor Sq, McConnell AFB, KS
5. May 2004 – June 2004, STUDENT, Academy Military Science, McGhee-Tyson ANGB, Alcoa, TN
6. June 2004 – June 2013, NETWORK TEAM CHIEF, 177th Information Warfare Aggressor Sq, McConnell AFB, KS
(November 2010 – June 2011, Deployed in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, Bagram AB, Afghanistan)
7. June 2013 – June 2016, CHIEF OF MAINTENANCE, 134th Air Control Sq, KSANG, McConnell AFB, KS
(October 2015 – May 2016, Deployed in support of COMBINED DEFENSE OF THE GULF, OPERATION RESOLUTE SUPPORT, OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE, Al Dhafra AB, United Arab Emirates)
8. June 2016 – October 2017, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, 127th Cyberspace Operations Squadron, McConnell AFB, KS
(March 2017 – October 2017, Deployed in support of OPERATION GLADIATOR PHOENIX, 856 Cyber Protection Team)
9. October 2017 – February 2019, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, 177th Information Aggressor Sq, McConnell AFB, KS
10. February 2019 – May 2020, COMMANDER, 127th Cyberspace Operations Squadron, McConnell AFB, KS
11. May 2020 – March 2021, COMMANDER, 177th Information Aggressor Squadron, McConnell AFB, KS
12. March 2021 – March 2024, COMMANDER, 184th Regional Support Group, McConnell AFB, KS
13. March 2024 – September 2025, COMMANDER, 184th Cyberspace Operational Group, McConnell AFB, KS
14. September 2025 - Present, Deputy Commander, 184th Wing, McConnell AFB, KS

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit
Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Air Force Achievement Medal
Joint Meritorious Unit Award with oak leaf cluster
Meritorious Unit Award with oak leaf cluster
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with ten oak leaf clusters
Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with six oak leaf clusters
Air Force Recognition Ribbon with oak leaf cluster
Afghanistan Campaign Medal
Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
NATO (non-title 5) Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Airmen First Class, June 08, 1989
Senior Airmen, June 08, 1991
Staff Sergeant, June 09, 1993
Technical Sergeant, June 09, 1995
Master Sergeant, June 09, 1998
Second Lieutenant, June 25, 2004
First Lieutenant, June, 25, 2006
Captain, June 25, 2008
Major, February 22, 2013
Lieutenant Colonel, December 18, 2017
Colonel, May 26, 2022

(Current as of September 2025)

