



# BIOGRAPHY



## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### COLONEL JOHN P. "J.P." O'DELL III

Colonel John P. "J.P." O'Dell III is the commander of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC), Detachment 875 and Professor of Aerospace Studies at Virginia Tech. He leads all recruiting, instruction, evaluation, and administration activities required to develop over 300 prospective Air Force and Space Force officers annually.

Colonel O'Dell received his commission in 1999, through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the Virginia Military Institute. His assignments have included squadron command in Air Education and Training Command, joint staff duties at Headquarters U.S. Southern Command and assignment to the Headquarters Air Force Staff as the Military Deputy Director of the Aircrew Task Force.



Col O'Dell is a Master Navigator with more than 3,300 flight hours in various Special Operations and Rescue aircraft. The Colonel has deployed in support of both Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM, as well as multiple operations in the EUCOM and AFRICOM areas of responsibility. Most recently, he was the Deputy Commander, 37<sup>th</sup> Training Wing, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, the largest, most diverse training wing in the U.S. Air Force known as the "Gateway to the Air Force."

### EDUCATION

- 1999 Bachelor of Science, Computer Science, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va.
- 2004 Air Force Weapons School, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
- 2005 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 2009 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB Ala., by correspondence
- 2011 Master of Science, Aviation Management, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Enid, Okla.
- 2013 U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth Kan.
- 2015 Air War College Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2020 Joint and Combined Warfighting School, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.

### ASSIGNMENTS

1. October 1999 – January 2000, Assistant Sortie Generation Officer, 69th Fighter Squadron, Moody Air Force Base, Ga.
2. February 2000 – November 2000, Navigator Student, Undergraduate Navigator Training, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas
3. December 2000 – April 2001, C-130E Navigator Training, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
4. May 2001 – October 2001, MC-130P Navigator Training, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
5. November 2001 – October 2005, MC-130P Instructor Navigator, Plans and Training Officer, Tactics Flight Commander, Weapons Instructor, 9th Special Operations Squadron, Eglin AFB, Fla.
6. November 2005 – October 2008, MC-130P Weapons Instructor, Evaluator Navigator, 67 SOS Chief of Tactics, 352 SOG Deputy Chief of Tactics, Deputy Chief of Stan/Eval, Royal Air Force Mildenhall, United Kingdom
7. November 2008 – September 2010, MC-130P Branch Chief, Command Evaluator Navigator, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
8. October 2010 – June 2012, MC-130J Initial Cadre Branch Chief, Command Evaluator Combat Systems Officers, Hurlburt Field Fla.
9. June 2012 – June 2013, Student, Army Command and Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas
10. June 2013 – June 2015, Wing Inspector General, Instructor Combat Systems Officer, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
11. June 2015 – June 2016, Squadron Operations Officer, Instructor Combat Systems Officer, Kirtland AFB, N.M.

12. June 2016 – January 2018, Squadron Commander, Instructor Combat Systems Officer, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
13. January 2018 – July 2020, Air Planner, Future Operation Division, United States Southern Command, Miami, Fla.
14. July 2020 – June 2022, Military Deputy Director, Training and Readiness, Aircrew Task Force, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Pentagon, Washington D.C.
15. June 2022 – July 2024, Deputy Wing Commander, 37th Training Wing, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas
16. July 2024-present, Commander, AFROTC Detachment 875, Blacksburg, Va.

## **SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS**

1. January 2018 – July 2020, U.S. Southern Command, Miami, Fla., as a Lieutenant Colonel

## **FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Rating: Master Navigator

Flight Hours: More than 3,300

Aircraft Flown: C-130E, MC-130P, HC-130P, EC-130J, HC-130J, MC-130J

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Legion of Merit

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with nine oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

## **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant September 3, 1999

First Lieutenant September 3, 2001

Captain September 3, 2003

Major July 1, 2009

Lieutenant Colonel December 1, 2014

Colonel November 1, 2020

**(CURRENT AS OF MARCH 2024)**