



# BIOGRAPHY

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### COLONEL WILLIAM G. SOTO

Colonel Soto is the Vice Commander, 305th Air Mobility Wing, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. The wing operates a fleet of KC-46 Pegasus and C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, providing rapid global mobility for national security objectives, combat operations, contingencies and humanitarian relief efforts worldwide through aerial refueling and airlift capabilities. The 305 AMW is also responsible for two of Air Mobility Command's busiest aerial ports, ensuring uninterrupted flow of forces and material in support of ongoing global operations.

Col Soto has served as an Air Force officer and aviator for over twenty years and has commanded several garrison and deployed squadrons, to include the 75th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, the 86th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, and the 65th Operations Support Squadron at Lajes Field, Portugal. He also served overseas in support of several combat, contingency, and support missions, and has combat experience in airlift, aerial refueling and operational support airlift including the C-130J, KC-135R/T, C-20H and C-37A. He is a command pilot with more than 3,600 hours including over 900 combat hours.



His staff appointments have spanned the operational, planning, policy, and diplomatic arenas. He previously served as Deputy Chief of the Iran, Iraq, and Syria Division within the Joint Staff J-5 where he developed policy options to inform U.S. government senior leaders, advance the President's policy priorities, and promote U.S. national security strategy interests. Other staff assignments included service as Deputy Chief of the Commander's Action Group for the Commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa, and Aide-de-Camp to the Director of the U.S. Embassy Military Liaison to U.S. Forces in Afghanistan.

Colonel Soto was commissioned in 2001 as a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and he is also a graduate of the U.S. National War College. He is married to Brittany and they have two teenage children, Amelie, and Gavin.

#### EDUCATION

- 2001 Bachelor of Science, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- 2008 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2011 Masters of Business Administration, Trident University International, Cypress, Calif.
- 2012 Air Command Staff College (correspondence)
- 2020 Masters of Science, National War College, Washington, D.C.

#### ASSIGNMENTS

1. May 2001 – Sep 2002, Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Laughlin AFB, Texas.
2. Oct 2002 – Feb 2007, KC-135R/T Aircraft Commander, 909th Air Refueling Squadron, Kadena AB, Japan.

3. Mar 2007 – Mar 2012, KC-135R/T Instructor and Evaluator pilot, Flight Commander, Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, Assistant Director of Operations, 92d Air Refueling Squadron; and Executive Officer, 92d Operations Group, Fairchild AFB, Wash.
4. Apr 2012 – May 2015, C-130J Instructor Pilot, Chief of Plans and Programs, 317th Airlift Group; and Director of Operations, 317th Operations Support Squadron, Dyess AFB, Texas.
5. Jun 2015 – Feb 2017, C-20H/C-37A Pilot, Assistant Director of Operations, 76th Airlift Squadron; and Commander, 86th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Ramstein Air Base, Germany
6. Feb 2017 – Jun 2018, Deputy Chief, Commander's Action Group, Headquarters United States Air Forces in Europe–Air Forces Africa, Ramstein Air Base, Germany
7. Jul 2018 – Jul 2019, Commander, 65th Operations Support Squadron, Lajes Field, Portugal
8. Jul 2019 – Jun 2020, Student, National War College, Washington D.C.
9. Jun 2020 – Jun 2023, Syria Political-Military Planner, the Joint Staff J-5; and Deputy Division Chief, the Joint Staff J-5, the Pentagon, Va.
10. Jun 2023 – present, Vice Commander, 305th Air Mobility Wing, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

### **FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: Over 3,600

Aircraft flown: KC-135R/T, C-130J, C-20H, C-37A, KC-46A

### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Bronze Star

Defense Superior Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster

Combat Readiness Medal

National Defense Service Medal

Afghanistan Campaign Medal

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal

NATO Medal

### **OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS**

Department of State Meritorious Honor Award

### **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant     May 30, 2001

First Lieutenant        May 30, 2003

Captain                    May 30, 2005

Major                      Feb 1, 2011

Lieutenant Colonel     May 1, 2016

Colonel                    Sep 1, 2022

(Current as of Jun 2023)