



COLONEL WILLIAM G. SOTO

Col William G. Soto is the Deputy Commander at the 305th Air Mobility Wing, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. The wing operates a fleet of 24 KC-46 Pegasus and 14 C-17 Globemaster III aircraft to provide global mobility support for national security objectives, combat operations, contingencies, and humanitarian relief efforts 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, and two airfields in Air Mobility Command's most complex airspace, while providing logistical support to the Joint Base community.

Col Soto earned his commission from the United States Air Force Academy in May of 2001. He has held positions at the squadron, group, wing, and headquarters level. His staff appointments have spanned the operational, planning, policy, and diplomatic arenas. Col Soto is a command pilot with more than 3,800 hours including over 900 combat hours. He served overseas in support of several combat, contingency, and support operations, and he has operational combat experience in airlift, aerial refueling and operational support aircraft. Prior to his current position, Col Soto served as Deputy Chief of the Iran, Iraq, and Syria Division within the Joint Staff J-5 at the Pentagon.



EDUCATION

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

ASSIGNMENTS

1. May 2001 – September 2002, Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Laughlin AFB, Tex.
2. October 2002 – February 2007, KC-135R/T Aircraft Commander, 909th Air Refueling Squadron, Kadena Air Base (AB), Japan
3. March 2007 – March 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. (April 2009 – September 2009, Executive Officer, 385th Air Expeditionary Group, Incirlik AB, Turkey; March 2010 – September 2010, Aide-de-Camp to the Director of the U.S. Embassy Military Liaison to U.S. Forces in Afghanistan, Kabul, Afghanistan)
4. April 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, Tex. (September 2014 – January 2015, Commander, 75th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, Camp Lemonnier, Republic of Djibouti)





5. June 2015 – February 2017, C-20H/C-37A Pilot, Assistant Director of Operations, 76th Airlift Squadron; and Commander, 86th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Ramstein AB, Germany
6. February 2017 – June 2018, Deputy Chief, Commander's Action Group, Headquarters United States Air Forces in Europe–Air Forces Africa, Ramstein AB, Germany
7. July 2018 – July 2019, Commander, 65th Operations Support Squadron, Lajes Field, Portugal
8. July 2019 – June 2020, Student, National War College, Washington D.C.
9. June 2020 – June 2023, Syria Political-Military Planner, the Joint Staff J-5; and Deputy Division Chief, the Joint Staff J-5, the Pentagon, Vir.
10. June 2023 – Present, Deputy Commander, 305th Air Mobility Wing, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. March 2010 – September 2010, Aide-de-Camp to the Director of the U.S. Embassy Military Liaison to U.S. Forces in Afghanistan, Kabul, Afghanistan, as a Captain
2. June 2020 – June 2023, Syria Political-Military Planner, the Joint Staff J-5; and Deputy Division Chief, the Joint Staff J-5, the Pentagon, Vir., as a Lieutenant Colonel and Colonel

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: Over 3,800

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

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

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2010 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 March 2025)

