



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

BACKGROUND

COLONEL PHILIP J. "COOP" COOPER

Colonel Philip "Coop" Cooper is the Commander of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, Detachment 880 at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia. He leads a team of eight active duty personnel in training and developing a cadet wing of more than 300 members into Air Force officers.

Colonel Cooper graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1996 earning his commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He is a Command Pilot with more than 3,300 (500 combat) flying hours. In his previous assignments, Colonel Cooper commanded the 438th Air Expeditionary Advisor Group in Kabul Afghanistan and the 37th Helicopter Squadron at F. E. Warren Air Force Base, where he also served as a Helicopter Group Deputy Commander. Additionally, he was the Deputy Chief for the Nuclear Planning, Policy, and Strategy Division at the Pentagon, and was the Chief of the Current Operations Division, at Headquarters Air Force Global Strike Command. Operationally, he conducted four tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom flying MH-53M Pave Lows for Air Force Special Operations Command.



EDUCATION

- 1996 Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Computer Science, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott, AZ
- 1997 Undergraduate Pilot Training, Fort Rucker, AL
- 1997 Helicopter Dunker course, Miramar Naval Air Station, CA
- 1997 USAF Survival School, Fairchild Air Force Base, WA
- 1997 Water Survival School, Fairchild Air Force Base, WA
- 1998 UH-1N Co-Pilot course, Kirtland Air Force Base, NM
- 1999 Flight Safety Officer School, Kirtland Air Force Base, NM
- 1999 Arctic Survival School, Eielson Air Force Base, AK
- 2002 MH-53J/M Pilot Training, Kirtland Air Force Base, NM
- 2003 Squadron Officer's School, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL
- 2005 Test Directors Course, Hurlburt Field, FL
- 2007 Air Command and Staff College, correspondence
- 2008 Master of Arts in Religion and Pastoral Counseling, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA
- 2009 Joint Air Operations Planning Course, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2010 Master of Military Operational Art & Science, Distinguished Graduate, Air Command & Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2011 National Search and Rescue School graduate, Yorktown, VA
- 2011 Safety & Accident Board Presidents Course, Kirtland Air Force Base, NM
- 2012 Maintenance Course for Operational Commanders, Sheppard Air force Base, TX
- 2012 Air War College, correspondence
- 2012 Nuclear 300 course, Kirtland Air Force Base, NM
- 2017 Master of Strategy, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2018 UH-60A Instructor Qual, Tullahoma, TN
- 2018 Fieldcraft Hostile/CENTCOM, McGuire AFB, NJ
- 2018 Air Advisor B/AFCENT, McGuire AFB, NJ
- 2019 AFROTC Det Commander's Course, Maxwell AFB, AL

ASSIGNMENTS

1. May 1996 – October 1996, Network Administrator, 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin AFB, TX
2. October 1996 – April 1997, Student Pilot, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training-fixed-wing, 85th Flying Training Squadron, Laughlin AFB, TX
3. April 1997 – November 1997, Student Pilot, Undergraduate Pilot Training-Helicopter, 23d Flying Training Squadron, Fort Rucker, AL
4. November 1997 – January 2001, UH-1N Mission Pilot, 36th Rescue Flight, Fairchild AFB, WA
5. January 2001 – April 2002, MH-53J Mission Pilot Qualification Course, 551st Flying Training Squadron, Kirtland AFB, NM
6. April 2002 – August 2003, MH-53M Mission Pilot, 21st Special Operations Squadron, Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England
7. September 2003 – January 2005, Group Safety Officer, 352d Special Operations Group, Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England
8. February 2005 – June 2005, MH-53M Instructor Pilot, 21st Special Operations Squadron, Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England
9. July 2005 – May 2007, Vertical Lift Flight Commander, 18th Flight Test Squadron, Hurlburt Field, FL
10. May 2007 – May 2008, Executive Officer to the Commander, 23d Air Force, and Director of Air, Space, and Cyberspace, Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field, FL
11. May 2008 – July 2009, Assistant Director of Operations, 18th Flight Test Squadron, Hurlburt Field, FL
12. July 2009 – July 2010, Student/Assistant Director of Operations, 21st Student Squadron, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL
13. July 2010 – May 2012, Director of Operations, 37th Helicopter Squadron, 90th Missile Wing, F. E. Warren AFB, WY
14. May 2012 – June 2014, Commander, 37th Helicopter Squadron, 90th Missile Wing, F. E. Warren AFB, WY
15. June 2014 – July 2014, Chief of Helicopter Operations, 20th Air Force, F. E. Warren AFB, WY
16. July 2014 – July 2015, Deputy Group Commander, 582d Helicopter Group, F. E. Warren AFB, WY
17. July 2015 – November 2015, Deputy Chief, Strategic Plans & Policy Division, Pentagon, Washington, DC
18. November 2015 – July 2016, Deputy Chief, Nuclear Planning, Policy and Strategy Division, Pentagon, Washington, DC
19. July 2016 – June 2017, Student Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL
20. June 2017 – May 2018, Chief, Current Operations Division, Headquarters Air Force Global Strike Command, Barksdale AFB, LA
21. May 2018 – May 2019, Commander, 438th Air Expeditionary Advisor Group, Kabul International Airport, Kabul Afghanistan
22. Jul 2019 – Present, Commander, AFROTC Det 880, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, VA

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: More than 3,300 (500 combat)

Aircraft flown: T-37A/B, UH-1H/N, TH-1H, TH-53A, MH-53J/M, MC-130A/P, UH-60A, AC/C-208B, MD-530, A-29, Mi-17

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

1. Legion of Merit with 'C' device
2. Meritorious Service Medal x 5
3. Air Medal with 'C' device x 6
4. Aerial Achievement Medal x 4
5. Air Force Commendation Medal x 2
6. Air Force Combat Action Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant	April 26, 1996
First Lieutenant	April 26, 1998
Captain	April 26, 2000
Major	March 01, 2006
Lieutenant Colonel	April 01, 2011
Colonel	July 01, 2017

(Current as of 20 April 2020)