



Colonel James S. Long II
Commander,
12th Flying Training Wing
Joint Base San Antonio
Randolph, TX

Colonel James Long is Commander of the 12th Flying Training Wing, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. The 12 FTW is the Source of America’s Airpower, delivering unrivaled airpower leaders for the future of the U.S. Air Force. The wing consists of two flying groups and a maintenance group spanning more than 700 miles from Joint Base San Antonio, Texas to Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida. The 12 FTW is responsible for five aviation training pipelines, Pilot Instructor Training, Undergraduate Combat Systems Officer Training, Undergraduate Remotely Piloted Aircraft pilot training, Career Enlisted Aviator training, and Fighter Bomber Fundamentals which prepares wingmen to transition into Fighter Training Units across the Air Force. Additionally, the wing oversees Electronic Warfare Training for the U.S. Joint Force and ally/partner nations from around the globe.

Col Long is a native of Del Rio, Texas. He graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences and then attended specialized undergraduate pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. Col Long then served two operational tours as a C-17 pilot at McChord AFB, Washington and Charleston AFB, South Carolina, ultimately qualifying as a Lead Airdrop Evaluator Pilot. He subsequently served as a Prime Nuclear Airlift Force Inspector and Executive Officer to the Air Mobility Command Inspector General before attending Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. He completed a joint assignment with U.S. Central Command J5 as Political-Military Country Director for the Central Asia region before taking command of the 16th Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Charleston executing missions in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, INHERENT RESOLVE and ALLIES REFUGE. Col Long then became the Senior Executive Officer to the Commander of the United States Air Force Expeditionary Center located at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. He then attended Senior Developmental Education at the USAF Air War College located at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. Prior to his current position, Col Long was the Deputy Commander, 6th Air Refueling Wing, MacDill AFB, Florida. Col James S. Long II is a command pilot with more than 4,500 flying hours, including 1,592 combat hours, in the C-17A.



Colonel John P. Matchett
Commander,
12th Operations Group
Joint Base San Antonio
Randolph, TX

Colonel John P. Matchett is the Commander, 12th Operations Group, 12th Flying Training Wing, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. The group is responsible for Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals student and instructor upgrade missions, as well as the Air Force’s Pilot Instructor Training, Undergraduate Remotely Piloted Aircraft pilot training, and Career Enlisted Aviator training programs. The group consists of five flying training squadrons, an operations support squadron, and a training squadron with more than 350 flying instructors, 50 enlisted members, and 282 DoD civilians and contractors who collectively produce more than 1,200 graduates per year.

Col Matchett commissioned from the US Air Force Academy in 2004. The National Aerospace and Space Administration selected him for the Program Research Education and Space Technology Fellowship, where he researched space propulsions systems at Goddard Space Flight center while completing his master’s degree. After completing flying training, Col Matchett joined the 67th Fighter Squadron in Okinawa, Japan, deploying to Central Command in support of OPERATION ODDASY DAWN as an F-15C Mission Commander. While awaiting F-22 training, Col Matchett stood up the first T-38 Adversary Air program in Air Combat Command. He transitioned to the F-22 with the 27th Fighter Squadron at Langley AFB, VA as an Assistant Director of Operations and F-22 Flight Lead. Col Matchett deployed to Central Command, executing the first week of F-22 combat missions associated with OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE. As a staff officer at U.S. Air Forces Europe, he led operational planning of allied assurance and adversary deterrence missions, OPLAN development, and kinetic missions in adjacent theaters. Returning stateside, Col Matchett developed the T-7 initial beddown plan at Randolph, beginning construction contracts on multiple facilities in preparation for initial T-7 operations. Previously he served as the Commander of the 435th Fighter Training Squadron and the Deputy Commander of the 33rd Operations Group in Elgin AFB, FL.

Col Matchett is a command pilot with more than 2,000 hours in the T-37, T-38A/C, F-15C/D, F-22, and F-35A.



SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

WELCOME REMARKS

ARRIVAL OF OFFICIAL PARTY

NATIONAL ANTHEM

INVOCATION

**REMARKS
COLONEL LONG**

ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND

**REMARKS
COLONEL MATCHETT**

**FIRST SALUTE & FLAGSHIP
UNVEILING**

CLOSING REMARKS

AIR FORCE SONG

**DEPARTURE OF OFFICIAL
PARTY**



*Off we go into the wild blue yonder,
Climbing high into the sun;
Here they come zooming to meet our thunder,
At 'em now, Give 'em the gun!
Down we dive, spouting our flame from under,
Off with one helluva roar!
We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!
Nothing can stop the U.S. Air Force!*

**Assumption of Command
Honoring**

**Colonel
John P. Matchett**



**14 August 2026
JBSA-Randolph
San Antonio, TX**