



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

CHAPLAIN (COLONEL) ANDREW L. THORNLEY

Chaplain (Colonel) Andrew L. Thornley is the Command Chaplain for Headquarters Air Education and Training Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. AETC is responsible for the recruitment, training, and education of all Air Force personnel.

As Command Chaplain, he advises and represents the AETC Commander on all aspects of the Chaplain Corps mission. Thornley directs the AETC headquarters chaplain staff and exercises oversight of 197 Chaplain Corps members at 16 wings, six groups, six True North teams and one squadron. He also ensures all AETC's Chaplains and Religious Affairs Airmen are trained and equipped for global deployment. He is the principal advisor on free exercise of religion and ensures spiritual care for 88,000 active duty, Guard, Reserve, civilians and contractor personnel.



Thornley enlisted in the United States Air Force in November 1983, completing four years of active-duty service as a law enforcement specialist. He was commissioned as a chaplain and re-entered active duty in October 2001. Thornley is ordained and endorsed by the Southern Baptist Convention.

EDUCATION

- 1993 Bachelor of Arts in History, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina
- 1999 Commissioned Officers Training, OTS, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
- 1999 Chaplain Candidate Familiarization Course, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
- 2000 Master of Divinity, the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky
- 2002 Basic Chaplain Course, Distinguished Graduate, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
- 2005 Squadron Officer School, Non-Resident
- 2005 Squadron Officer School, Top Third Graduate, In-Residence, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
- 2007 Air Force Intern Program (Intermediate Developmental Education), In-Residence, the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia
- 2014 Air Command and Staff College, Non-Resident, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
- 2020 Air War College, Non-Resident, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
- 2022 Air War College, In-Residence, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
- 2022 Master of Strategic Studies, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Alabama

ASSIGNMENTS

1. July – August 1999 – Chaplain Candidate, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida
2. July – August 2000 – Chaplain Candidate, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado
3. May 2001 – September 2001, Individual Mobilization Augmentee Chaplain, Robbins AFB, Georgia
4. October 2001 – June 2004, Chaplain, 305th Air Mobility Wing, McGuire AFB, New Jersey
5. July 2004 – July 2006, Group Chaplain, 381st Training Group, Vandenberg AFB, California
6. August 2006 – June 2007, Air Force Intern Program, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
7. May 2008 – September 2008, Chaplain, 506th Air Expeditionary Group, Kirkuk, Iraq
8. July 2007 – December 2009, Chaplain, 316th Wing, Andrews AFB, Air Force District of

Washington, Maryland

9. December 2009 – June 2014, Deputy, Chaplain Accessions, Air Force Recruiting Service, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas
10. June 2014 – July 2016, Deputy Wing Chaplain, 60th Air Mobility Wing, Travis AFB, California
11. July 2016 – May 2018, Wing Chaplain, 374th Airlift Wing, Yokota AB, Japan
12. June 2018 – July 2019, Installation Chaplain, Space and Missile Systems Center, Los Angeles AFB, California
13. July 2019 – July 2020, Deputy Chief, Personnel, Budget, and Readiness Division, Air Force Chief of Chaplains Office, the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia
14. July 2020 – July 2021, Chief, Personnel, Budget, and Readiness Division, Air Force Chief of Chaplains Office, the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia
15. July 2021 – May 2022, Student, Air War College, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
16. July 2022 – April 2024, Senior Chaplain, 16th Air Force, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas
17. April 2024– Present, Command Chaplain, Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air and Space Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Meritorious Unit Award

Air and Space Outstanding Unit Award with six oak leaf clusters

Air and Space Organizational Excellence Award

National Defense Service Medal with Service Star Iraqi

Campaign Medal with Service Star

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal Nuclear

Deterrence Operations Service Medal

Air and Space Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border

Air Mobility Command Chaplain Service Company Grade Officer of the Year (2002)

Air Force District of Washington Company Grade Chaplain of the Year (2008)

Air Force Association Chaplain of the Year (2009)

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant Dec. 19, 1998

First Lieutenant Aug. 14, 2001

Captain Dec. 16, 2002

Major April 1, 2013

Lieutenant Colonel March 1, 2018

Colonel Oct. 1, 2022

(Current as of June 2024)