



# BIOGRAPHY



## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### COLONEL MATTHEW W. GUASCO

Colonel Matthew W. Guasco, PhD, is the Commander of Detachment 5, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. He provides oversight for more than 144 unit-assigned personnel and operational control for more than 300 matrixed major command personnel located between Edwards AFB, Calif.; Hurlburt Field, Fla.; St. Louis, Mo.; Nellis AFB, Nev.; San Antonio, Texas; and Boeing Field, Wash. AFOTEC Detachment 5 currently plans and executes tests on 20 different bomber, command and control, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (manned and unmanned), mobility, Air Force Special Operations, rotary-wing, and training aircraft and systems that are on Office of the Secretary of Defense oversight with a collective acquisition value of more than \$104 billion.

Colonel Guasco was commissioned in May 2004 as a distinguished graduate of the ROTC program at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Fla. After completing pilot training at Columbus AFB, Miss., in April 2006, and B-52 formal training at Barksdale AFB, La., in December 2006, he was assigned to the 23rd Bomb Squadron, Minot AFB, N.D. There, he served in numerous roles, culminating as the Wing Weapons Officer for the 5th Bomb Wing before being selected as an instructor at the B-52 Weapons Instructor Course, Barksdale, AFB, La., in January 2013. Colonel Guasco departed the B-52 WIC in 2015 as an Assistant Director of Operations, and attended Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, Ala., where he received distinguished graduate honors followed by his selection to the School of Advanced Warfighting located in Quantico, Va. Upon graduation in 2017, Colonel Guasco served as the Strategy Plans Team Chief at the 607th Air Operations Center, Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea during the “Korean Missile Crisis.” After his short tour assignment, culminating as the 7th Air Force Field Grade Officer of the Year, Colonel Guasco was selected to be the Director of Operations at the 340th Weapons Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La., ensuring the success of future weapons officers. Following this assignment, Colonel Guasco served as the Director of Operations, then Commander of the 49th Test and Evaluation Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La. As Commander, he managed an \$11.7 billion modernization portfolio and executed operational test and evaluation, tactics development, and weapon system evaluations for the B-52H.



Colonel Guasco is a command pilot with more than 2,300 hours in the B-52H to include multiple deployments to Guam in support of the Continuous Bomber Presence. Colonel Guasco was a National Defense Postdoctoral Fellow studying at the Harvard Kennedy School, Belfer Center. As part of the Project on Managing the Atom, he conducted policy-relevant research on nuclear weapons, deterrence theory, nuclear energy, and nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Prior to this assignment, Colonel Guasco served as the National Airborne Operations Center liaison to the National Capital Region.

## **EDUCATION**

- 2004 Bachelor of Science, Human Factors Psychology, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Fla.
- 2004 Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 2011 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2011 Master of Aeronautical Science, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Fla.
- 2016 Master of Military Operational Art and Science, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2017 Master of Operational Studies, School of Advanced Warfighting, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.
- 2019 Leader Development Course for Squadron Commanders, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2020 Doctor of Philosophy, Psychology, Capella University, Minneapolis, Minn.
- 2023 Postdoctoral, Nuclear Deterrence Theory, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
- 2025 Leading Data and AI-Enabled Organizations for Executive Leaders, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. March 2005 – September 2005, Student, Joint Undergraduate Pilot Training, Columbus AFB, Miss.
2. September 2005 – May 2006, Student, B-52 Formal Training Unit, Barksdale AFB, La.
3. May 2006 – March 2009, Weapons and Tactics Pilot, 23rd Bomb Squadron, Minot AFB, N.D.
4. March 2009 – February 2010, Assistant Flight Commander, 23rd Bomb Squadron, Minot AFB, N.D.
5. February 2010 – June 2011, Flight Commander, 23rd Bomb Squadron, Minot AFB, N.D.
6. June 2011 – January 2012, Chief of Nuclear Operations, 23rd Bomb Squadron, Minot AFB, N.D.
7. January 2012 – July 2012, Student, United States Air Force Weapons School (USAFWS), Nellis AFB, Nev.
8. July 2012 – January 2013, Wing Weapons Officer, 5th Operations Support Squadron, Minot AFB, N.D.
9. January 2013 – July 2014, USAFWS Instructor Pilot, 340th Weapons Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La.
10. July 2014 – July 2015, Assistant Director of Operations, 340th Weapons Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La.
11. July 2015 – June 2016, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
12. June 2016 – July 2017, Student, School of Advanced Warfighting, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.
13. July 2017 – July 2018, Strategy Plans Team Chief, 607th Air Operations Center, Osan AB, Republic of Korea
14. July 2018 – July 2019, Director of Operations, 340th Weapons Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La.
15. July 2019 – July 2020, Director of Operations, 49th Test and Evaluation Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La.
16. July 2020 – June 2022, Commander, 49th Test and Evaluation Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La.
17. June 2022 – June 2023, National Defense Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, Mass.
18. June 2023 – August 2025, National Airborne Operations Center liaison to the National Capital Region, United States Strategic Command, Washington, D.C.
19. August 2025 – Present, Commander, Detachment 5, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Edwards AFB, Calif.

## **SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS**

June 2023 – August 2025, National Airborne Operations Center liaison to the National Capital Region, United States Strategic Command, Washington, D.C., as a lieutenant colonel

## **FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: More than 2,500 hours

Aircraft flown: T-37, T-38C, B-52H, B-1, E-4B

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Defense Superior Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air and Space Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air and Space Achievement Medal

**PUBLICATIONS**

"The Mentoring Process Among USAF Officers: A Grounded Theory Study," ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2020

**EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Second Lieutenant  | June 2, 2004  |
| First Lieutenant   | June 2, 2006  |
| Captain            | June 2, 2008  |
| Major              | Oct. 1, 2014  |
| Lieutenant Colonel | April 1, 2019 |
| Colonel            | March 1, 2025 |