



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL MICHAEL LOPEZ

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Lopez is the Commander of Detachment 2, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. AFOTEC's Detachment 2 is a group-equivalent unit of 115 personnel who direct and evaluate operational test and evaluation on more than four U.S. Air Force and joint weapon systems. Lieutenant Colonel Lopez leads the planning, coordination, and execution of operational test and evaluation efforts for 32 major air armament, command and control, electronic warfare, and mission planning programs worth \$20 billion for the Department of War.

He is a B-52 Weapons Officer, Evaluator, and Instructor Pilot. His past assignments included duty as an aircraft commander, flight commander, and wing scheduler at Minot AFB, N.D. He was also the Squadron Commander at the 612th Air Base Squadron at Soto Cano Air Base, Republic of Honduras. He also served as a Deputy Division Chief, J-35 Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia.

Lieutenant Colonel Lopez has deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, and Resolute Support. He is a command pilot with more than 3,000 flight hours and 611 combat hours.



EDUCATION:

- 2005 Bachelor of Science (Cum Laude) in political science, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Fla.
- 2009 Squadron Officer School, by correspondence
- 2010 Master's Degree in aeronautical science, aeronautics, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Fla.
- 2011 Inter-American Air Forces Academy Squadron Officer School, Lackland AFB, Texas
- 2014 Air Force Weapons School, Nellis AFB, Nev.
- 2015 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
- 2019 Doctorate of Education in educational leadership, Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.
- 2020 Air War College, by correspondence
- 2026 Master's Degree in Strategic Studies (Highest Academic Distinction), Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. June 2005 – September 2006, student, Euro NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training, Sheppard AFB, Texas
2. September 2006 – June 2007, student, B-52 Formal Training Unit, 11th Bomb Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La.
3. July 2007 – August 2012, co-pilot, aircraft commander, Flight Commander, 23rd Bomb Squadron Minot AFB, N.D. (May 2010 – February 2011, flight commander and MC-12 pilot, Balad AB, Iraq)
4. August 2012 – January 2013, instructor pilot, wing scheduler, 5th Operations Support Squadron,

Minot AFB, N.D.

5. January 2013 – February 2014, evaluator pilot, Standardization and Evaluations Flight Commander, 20th Bomb Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La.
6. February 2014 – June 2014, student, Weapons Instructor Course, U.S. Air Force Weapons School, Barksdale AFB, La.
7. June 2014 – March 2015, Flight Commander, Weapons and Tactics, 96th Bomb Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La.
8. March 2015 – July 2017, Assistant Director of Operations, Nuclear Test Division Commander, Chief of Training, 49th Test and Evaluation Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La. (October 2016 – April 2017, Detachment Commander and Air Advisor, Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan)
9. July 2017 – June 2021, Chief of Strategic Strike Programs, Air Force Test and Evaluation, Headquarters Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.
10. June 2021 – June 2022, Commander, 612th Air Base Squadron, Soto Cano Air Base, Republic of Honduras
11. June 2022 – June 2025, operations officer and Deputy Division Chief, J-35 Joint Operations Division – Africa, Americas, and Integrated Operations Directorate, Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.
12. June 2025 – June 2026, student, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, La.
13. July 2026 – present, Commander, Detachment 2, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Eglin AFB, Fla.

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: More than 3,000 with 611 combat hours

Aircraft Flown: B-52H, MC-12W, RC-208, T-38A, and T-37B

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with silver leaf cluster

Aerial Achievement Medal

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters and “C” Device

Joint Service Achievement Medal

Air Force Achievement Medal

Army Achievement Medal

Combat Readiness Medal with oak leaf cluster

National Defense Service Medal

Afghanistan Campaign Medal with bronze star

Iraq Campaign Medal with bronze star

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters and “N” Device

NATO Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant May 14, 2005

First Lieutenant May 14, 2007

Captain May 14, 2009

Major July 1, 2015

Lieutenant Colonel Jan. 1, 2020

(Current as of July 2026)