



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL DENISE M. MICHAELS

Colonel Denise M. Michaels is the Commander, Detachment 3, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Hill Air Force Base, Utah. Colonel Michaels commands a group equivalent unit growing to more than 100 people, which will include two geographically separated Operating Locations at Offutt AFB, Neb., and Vandenberg Space Force Base, Calif. She is responsible for leading, planning, executing, and reporting operational tests and evaluations for three advanced intercontinental ballistic missile system programs worth more than \$171 billion.

Colonel Michaels was commissioned through the U.S. Air Force Academy in 2005, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Operations Research. She has been a mission-ready crew member in the Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile System and a Flight Test Engineer on multiple Air Force platforms to include the B-1, B-52 and C-12. Colonel Michaels has served as Squadron Commander, Director of Operations, Chief of Test Safety, Assistant Director of Operations, Chief Flight Test Engineer, an operational and developmental tester, an instructor, and an evaluator.

Prior to this assignment, Colonel Michaels served as the Deputy Division Chief, Test, Training and Cyber Policy, Air Force Global Strike Command, Barksdale AFB, La. In this position she assisted the division chief, leading an eight-member team in developing and implementing test, training, and cyber policy for the \$141 billion Sentinel program and ensured effective system testing.



EDUCATION

- 2005 Bachelor of Science in Operations Research, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- 2006 Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2008 Master of Science in Operations Research, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas
- 2011 Distinguished Graduate, Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2014 Master of Science in Flight Test Engineering, U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School, Air University, Edwards AFB, Calif.
- 2016 Air Command and Staff College (by correspondence)
- 2018 Nuclear Weapons Effects, Policy, and Proliferation Graduate Certificate, Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
- 2020 Test and Evaluation Certificate, Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
- 2022 Air War College (by correspondence)

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 2005 – May 2006, Student, Distinguished Graduate, ICBM REACT-A Initial Qualification Training, 392nd Training Squadron, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
2. May 2006 – June 2007, ICBM Combat Crew Deputy Commander, 741st Missile Squadron, Minot AFB, N.D.

3. June 2007 – May 2008, ICBM Combat Crew Evaluator Deputy Commander, 91st Operations Group, Minot AFB, N.D.
4. May 2008 – April 2009, ICBM Combat Crew Commander, 741st Missile Squadron, Minot AFB, N.D.
5. April 2009 – December 2010, ICBM Senior Evaluator Combat Crew Commander, ICBM Evaluation Operations Chief, ICBM Combat Crew Evaluator Commander, 91st Operations Group, Minot AFB, N.D.
6. December 2010 – June 2011, ICBM Weapons and Tactics Instructor, 91st Operations Support Squadron, Minot AFB, N.D.
7. June 2011 – December 2013, ICBM Flight Test Management Section Chief, Flight Test Manager, Instructor, Test Operations Officer, 576th Flight Test Squadron, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
8. December 2013 – December 2014, Student, U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School, Edwards AFB, Calif.
9. December 2014 – July 2017, Assistant Director of Operations, Chief Flight Test Engineer, Operations Engineering Flight Commander, B-1, B-52 and C-12 Flight Test Engineer, 419th Flight Test Squadron, Edwards AFB, Calif.
10. July 2017 – December 2017, Chief of Test Safety, 412th Test Wing, Edwards AFB, Calif.
11. December 2017 – July 2020, Chief Test and Evaluations Branch, Chief of ICBM Planning Factors, Air Force Global Strike Command, Barksdale AFB, La.
12. July 2020 – July 2022, Director of Operations, 10th Missile Squadron, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.
13. July 2022 – July 2024, Commander, 490th Missile Squadron, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.
14. August 2024 – May 2026, Deputy Division Chief of Test, Training and Cyber Policy, Air Force Global Strike Command, Barksdale AFB, La.
15. May 2026 – present, Commander, Detachment 3, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Hill AFB, Utah

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters
 Aerial Achievement Medal
 Joint Service Commendation Medal
 Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster
 Air Force Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster
 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with oak leaf cluster
 Air Force Organizational Excellence Award
 Combat Readiness Medal with two oak leaf clusters
 National Defense Service Medal
 Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
 Humanitarian Service Medal
 Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal with 'N' Device

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

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|--------------------|---------------|
| Second Lieutenant | June 1, 2005 |
| First Lieutenant | June 1, 2007 |
| Captain | June 1, 2009 |
| Major | Aug. 1, 2015 |
| Lieutenant Colonel | Feb. 1, 2020 |
| Colonel | March 1, 2026 |