



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL RYAN L. ROPER

Lieutenant Colonel Ryan L. Roper is the Commander of Detachment 6, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and Director, Joint and Multi-National F-35 United Operational Test Team. AFOTEC Detachment 6 plans, conducts, and reports on realistic, objective, and impartial operational test and evaluation of fighter aircraft. The detachment evaluates the operational effectiveness, suitability, and mission capability of the F-47, F-35, F-22, F-15E/EX, F-16, and Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA), and reports results in support of major acquisition program milestone decisions and combatant command fielding decisions.

Lieutenant Colonel Roper is a 2004 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy with a degree in Computer Science. He served two assignments in the F-15E where he deployed to Afghanistan, the Republic of Korea, and the United Arab Emirates. Afterward he served the joint and multi-national F-35 Initial Operational Test and Evaluation effort as the Director of Operations for the \$551M test effort. Then, he commanded the 435th Contingency Response Support Squadron at Ramstein Air Base where he led during Operations OCTAVE QUARTZ and ALLIES WELCOME, as well as Joint Task Force DRAGON in support of lethal aid to Ukraine. Prior to Command at Detachment 6, Lieutenant Colonel Roper served as its Deputy Commander.



Lieutenant Colonel Roper is a senior pilot with more than 1,200 hours in the F-15E including combat, instructor and evaluator time. In May of 2024, he transitioned to the F-35A to fly with the newly formed 5th Generation Aggressor Squadron.

EDUCATION

- 2004 Bachelor of Science in Computer Science degree, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.
- 2011 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2013 Master of Military Operational Art and Science degree, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2014 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
- 2017 U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Ft Leavenworth, Kan.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 2004 – August 2006; student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Moody AFB, Georgia and Columbus AFB, Miss.
2. August 2006 – July 2010; combat plans officer, 391st Fighter Squadron, chief of wing combat training and F-15E flight lead, 366 Operations Support Squadron, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho
3. July 2010 – March 2012; Chief of Combat Plans and F-15E instructor pilot, 333rd Fighter Squadron, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.

4. March 2012 – December 2013; Flight Commander and F-15E evaluator pilot, 4th Training Squadron, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.
5. December 2013 – June 2016; Wing Executive Officer and Wing Director of Staff, 33rd Fighter Wing, Eglin AFB, Fla.
6. June 2017 – November 2019; Director of Operations and Chief of Data and Instrumentation, JSF Operational Test Team, AFOTEC Detachment 1, Edwards AFB, Calif.
7. November 2019 – June 2020; Chief of Fifth Generation Integration Branch, HQ USAFE A 3/10, Ramstein AB, Germany
8. June 2020 – July 2022; Commander, 435th Contingency Response Support Squadron, Ramstein AB, Germany
9. August 2022 – May 2025; Deputy Commander, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center Detachment 6, Nellis AFB, Nev.
10. May 2025– present; Commander, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center Detachment 6, Nellis AFB, Nev.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Senior pilot

Flight hours: More than 1,200, including 250 combat hours

Aircraft flown: F-15E

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster

Air Force Achievement Medal

Combat Readiness Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant	June 4, 2004
First Lieutenant	June 4, 2006
Captain	June 4, 2008
Major	June 1, 2014
Lieutenant Colonel	Feb. 1, 2019