



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL CHRISTOPHER R. “CREOLE” MARTINEZ

Col Christopher “Creole” Martinez serves as the Commander of the 317th Operations Group, Dyess Air Force Base, Texas. He commands three squadrons, 400 personnel, and 28 C-130J aircraft engaged in worldwide combat aerial delivery and airland operations.

Col Martinez received his commission upon graduation from the United States Air Force Academy in 2005. He served in two operational flying squadrons, taught at the US Air Force Weapons School, worked as an Airpower Strategist in Checkmate, served as Action Group Director for the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, was a Political-Military Planner for the Middle East on the Joint Staff, and led the Strategic Analysis Team in the SecAF/CSAF Executive Action Group. Prior to his current position, the Col was the Deputy Director of the SecAF/CSAF Strategic Execution Group.

Chris commanded the 405th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan where his squadron was an integral piece of the retrograde and closure of operations. He has deployed seven times flying missions supporting operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and has over 1,000 combat hours.



EDUCATION

2005 Bachelor of Science, Legal Studies, U.S. Air Force Academy, Co.

2006 Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

2009 Squadron Officer School, by correspondence

2012 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2012 Master of Arts, Political Science, American Military University, Charles Town, W.V.

2014 United States Air Force Weapons Instructor Course, Little Rock AFB, Ark.

2017 Master of Military Art and Science, Art of War Scholars and Military History, Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

2018 Master of Arts, Military Operations, School of Advanced Military Studies, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

2019 Air War College, by correspondence

2024 Master of Strategic Studies, Marine Corps War College, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 2005 – May 2006, Pilot Trainee, 557th Flying Training Squadron, United States Air Force Academy, Co.
2. May 2006 – November 2006, Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Columbus AFB, Miss.
3. November 2006 – September 2007, Student, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Tex.
4. September 2007 – April 2008, Student, C-130E/H Initial Qualification Training, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
5. April 2008 – August 2012, C-130J Instructor Pilot, C-130E/H Aircraft Commander, and Deputy Chief of Tactics, 40th Airlift Squadron, Dyess AFB, Tex.
6. August 2012 – February 2015, C-130J Weapons Officer, Evaluator Pilot, and Chief of Tactics, 41st AS, Little Rock AFB, Ark.





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7. February 2015 – June 2016, Weapons Instructor Cadre and Director of Staff, 29th Weapons Squadron, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
8. June 2016 – June 2017, Student, Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
9. June 2017 – May 2018, Student, School of Advanced Military Studies, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
10. May 2018 – May 2019, Airpower Strategist, Directorate of Checkmate (AF/A3K), Headquarters Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.
11. May 2019 – June 2020, Director, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations (AF/A3) Action Group, Headquarters Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.
12. June 2020 – June 2021, Commander, 405th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan
13. July 2021 – July 2023, Political-Military Planner, Deputy Directorate Politico-Military Affairs Middle East and Africa, Joint Staff J-5, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.
14. July 2023 – June 2024, Student, United States Marine Corps War College, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.
15. June 2024 – June 2025, Strategic Analysis Team Chief, SecAF/CSAF Executive Action Group (HAF/CX), Headquarters Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.
16. June 2025 – June 2026, Deputy Director, SecAF/CSAF Strategic Execution Group (AF/DSX), Headquarters Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.
17. June 2026 – present, Commander, 317th Operations Group, Dyess AFB, Tex.

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. July 2021 – July 2023, Political-Military Planner, Deputy Directorate Politico-Military Affairs Middle East and Africa, Joint Staff J-5, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va. as a lieutenant colonel

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: More than 2,700 (1,015 combat)

Aircraft flown: T-37, T-44C, C-130E/H/J

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Bronze Star Medal

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with two "C" devices and nine oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters

German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (Gold)

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2008 Distinguished Graduate, C-130E/H Pilot Initial Qualification Course

2011 Distinguished Graduate, C-130J Pilot Transition Course

2012 Distinguished Graduate, C-130J Instructor Pilot Course

2014 Academic Award, C-130 Weapons Instructor Course

2017 Top 20% Designation, US Army Command and General Staff College

2018 Honor's List, Top 20%, and Iron Pen Award, US Army School of Advanced Military Studies

2024 Distinguished Graduate and Academic Excellence Award, US Marine Corps War College

PUBLICATIONS





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"Strengthening the Airlift-Airborne Team through the Lessons from the Normandy and Corregidor Airdrops," Air Land Sea Bulletin, Winter 2018

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant June 1, 2005

First Lieutenant June 1, 2007

Captain June 1, 2009

Major September 1, 2015

Lieutenant Colonel March 1, 2020

Colonel January 1, 2026

(Current as of June 2026)

