



CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JOSEPH C. "JS" SOUTHERN

CMSgt Joseph C. Southern is the Chief Controller, Radar Approach Control (RAPCON) and the Senior Enlisted Leader at the 71st Operations Support Squadron, Vance Air Force Base, Enid, Oklahoma. As the RAPCON Chief Controller, he is responsible for 214,000 annual air traffic operations. He provides guidance and mentorship for over 200 enlisted, officers and civilians supporting Undergraduate Pilot Training. He brings operational leadership and perspective in the management of the 3rd busiest airfield in the United States Air Force supporting 206 training aircraft executing over 55,000 sorties while producing over 300 World Class United States Air Force and Allied Partner pilots each year.



Chief Southern grew up in Groveport Ohio and enlisted in the Air Force in June 2008. He graduated the Air Traffic Control Apprentice Course in December 2008. He has served in a variety of roles managing RAPCON and Tower Air Traffic Control operations while assigned to units in Delaware, Florida, Greenland and Illinois. Chief Southern has led Airmen in the Middle East, Africa and the Arctic directly supporting OPERATIONS OCTAVE SHIELD, OCTAVE QUARTZ, INHERENT RESOLVE, FREEDOM'S SENTINEL, BOXTOP, NORTHERN FALCON, and ICEBRIDGE. Prior to his current position, he was the Air Traffic Control Operations and Procedures Command Manager at Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Illinois.

EDUCATION

- 2012 Airman Leadership School, Dover Air Force Base, Del.
- 2016 Noncommissioned Officer Academy by correspondence
- 2016 Associate Degree in Air Traffic Control, Community College of the Air Force
- 2016 Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education I by correspondence
- 2018 Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, Tyndall AFB, Fla.
- 2018 Senior Enlisted Joint Profession Military Education II by correspondence
- 2021 Bachelor of Science in Air Traffic Control, Thomas Edison State University, Trenton, N.J.
- 2022 Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 2008 – August 2008, Trainee, 322nd Basic Military Training Squadron, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas
2. August 2008 – December 2008, Air Traffic Control Apprentice Course, Keesler AFB, Miss.
3. January 2009 – July 2014, ATC Watch Supervisor 436th Operations Support Squadron, Dover AFB, Del.
4. July 2014 – July 2016, ATC Watch Supervisor 325th Operations Support Squadron, Tyndall AFB, Fla.





BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

5. July 2016 – July 2017, ATC Watch Supervisor 821st Support Squadron, Thule Air Base, Greenland
6. July 2017 – July 2021, Assistant Tower Chief Controller 96th Operations Support Squadron, Duke Field, Fla. (1 October 2018 – 8 April 2019, Tower Chief Liaison Officer, 380th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, 16 August 2020 – 18 February 2021, Tower Chief Controller & Senior Enlisted Leader, 776th Expeditionary Air Base Squadron, Chabelley Airfield, Republic of Djibouti)
7. July 2021 – June 2025, Command Manager ATC Operations and Procedures HQ AMC, Scott AFB, Ill.
8. June 2025 - Present, RAPCON Chief Controller & Senior Enlisted Leader, 71st Operations Support Squadron, Vance AFB, Okla.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster

EFFECTIVE DATE OF PROMOTION

Chief Master Sergeant 1 October 2025

(Current as of February 2026)

