



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL ROBERT T. SWANSON, JR. (Retired)

Colonel Robert “Rob” Swanson retired from active duty after serving nearly 35 years. Since retirement, he completed an Executive MBA from the Shidler School of Business and has been actively involved as keynote speaker, senior mentor and advisor for the award-winning Fight For Each Other suicide prevention program in Hawaii.

Prior to retirement, Colonel Swanson was Chief, Weather Strategic Plans and Interagency Integration Division, Directorate of Weather, Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. The Division plans weather, climate and space environmental support for the Air Force Weather functional area and oversees integration of technology and weather into C4I and modeling systems.

Colonel Swanson earned his commission through the Airman Education and Commissioning Program graduating Summa Cum Laude from Texas A&M University. He enjoys a diverse background that includes prior enlisted time, two Air Force Institute of Technology tours culminating in MS and PhD degrees, joint, coalition and special operations assignments, and a series of rigorous leadership, scientific, teaching and staff positions.



While deployed to Afghanistan as the Chief Meteorological Officer for the International Security Assistance Force, Colonel Swanson led 170 international troops across 58 locations delivering expert weather support enabling over 42,000 sorties, 700 ground ops and 1,000 troops in contact events in support of Operation HAMKARI – the largest/most decisive surge to date. While there, he was hand-picked to lead the Secretary of Defense’s \$850M Persistent Surveillance Systems Operation ENDURING FREEDOM deployment.

Previously, as the Commander of the 607th Weather Squadron in the Republic of Korea, he led combined weather operations during north Korea nuclear and missile tests/crises. As executive officer to the PACAF Director of Operations, he led support for tsunami-ravaged Indonesia and south Asia.

Finally, as Director of Operations for the 17th Operational Weather Squadron he led the unit to full operational capability while supporting vital Operations IRAQI and ENDURING FREEDOM missions, presidential and Secretary of Defense support, typhoon evacuation, as well as intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission support across the entire Pacific Command.

EDUCATION

1990: Bachelor of Science in Meteorology, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas
1991: Officer Training School, Lackland AFB, Texas
1995: Master of Science in Meteorology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah
1998: Doctorate in Physical Meteorology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah
2000: Squadron Officers School (Correspondence)
2003: Air Command and Staff College (Correspondence)

2007: Air War College (Correspondence)

2013: Advanced Security Cooperation, Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies, Honolulu, Hawaii

2013: Comprehensive Crisis Management, Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies, Honolulu, Hawaii

2018: Executive Master of Business Administration, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii

ASSIGNMENTS

1991 - 1993, Special Operations Weather Team Officer-in-Charge, 1st Special Forces Group, Airborne, Ft Lewis, Washington

1993 - 1998, Meteorology Graduate Student, Air Force Institute of Technology, University of Utah, Utah

1998 - 2000, Advanced Meteorologist/Numerical Weather Models, Air Force Weather Agency, Offutt AFB, Nebraska

2000 - 2001, Chief, Technology Transition Team, Air Force Weather Agency, Offutt AFB, Nebraska

2001 - 2004, Director of Operations, 17th Operational Weather Squadron, Hickam AFB, HI and Staff Weather Officer to Commanding General, U.S. Army Pacific, Ft Shafter, Hawaii

2004 - 2005, Executive Officer to Maj Gen Dave Deptula, Director of Operations, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Hickam AFB, Hawaii

2005 - 2007, Director of Meteorology and Assistant Professor, Meteorology. United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado

2007 - 2009, Commander, 607th Weather Squadron, U.S. Army Garrison-Yongsan, Republic of Korea

2009 - 2011, Deputy Director, Army Policy, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

2010 - 2011, International Security Assistance Force Chief Meteorological Officer, Kabul, Afghanistan

2011 - 2014, Chief Pacific Air Forces Weather, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii

2014 - 2015, Chief, Weather Strategic Plans & Interagency Integration Division, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster

AF Good Conduct Medal with two oak leaf clusters

National Defense Service Medal with one device

Afghanistan Campaign Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Korean Defense Service Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal with one device

NATO Medal with International Security Assistance Force cluster

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant June 5, 1991

First Lieutenant June 5, 1993

Captain June 5, 1995

Major May 1, 2002

Lt Col Apr 1, 2007

Colonel Dec 1, 2012

(Current as of Dec 2019)