



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL JOHN R. EDWARDS

Colonel John R. Edwards is Director of the Joint Staff Innovation Group where he leads a combined team of Joint Staff and Office of Secretary of Defense action officers on military issues pertaining to defense innovation. This includes future warfighting concepts, military capabilities, asymmetric approaches, and global strategies. Prior to this joint assignment, he was the Chief of Future Strategic Concepts in the J-8 Force Structure, Resources, and Assessment Directorate, the Joint Staff where he worked on the Quadrennial Defense Review.

Colonel Edwards was commissioned following graduation from the University of Hawaii Reserve Officers Training Program in 1995. He earned his navigator wings and naval flight officer rating from Pensacola Naval Air Station, Florida in 1996. His previous assignments include instructor electronic warfare officer, weapons officer, evaluator, flight commander, weapons school instructor, and commander of the 96th Bomb Squadron. He held various positions on the staffs of the Joint Chiefs of Staff J-3 Operations Directorate, J-8 Force Structure, Resources and Assessment Directorate, U.S. Air Force Headquarters A3/5 CHECKMATE Division, Secretary of the Air Force and Air Force Chief of Staff Executive Action Group, and U.S. Air Forces Central Command. He served in Operations Southern Watch, Allied Force and Enduring Freedom as a senior navigator with over 2,200 flight hours including 237 combat hours.



EDUCATION

- 1995 Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI
- 2000 Weapons Instructor Course (Distinguished Graduate), USAF Weapons School, Nellis AFB, NV
- 2001 Squadron Officers School, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2003 Master of Arts in Organizational Science, George Washington University, Washington DC
- 2007 Master of Military Operational Arts & Sciences (Distinguished Graduate), Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2008 Master of Airpower Art and Science, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2009 Air War College (Distance Learning), Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2013 National Defense Fellow (Senior Developmental Education), Stimson Center, Washington DC
- 2013 Joint and Combined Warfighting School (JPME II), National Defense University, Norfolk, VA

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Jul 95 – Nov 96, Student, Joint Navigator Training & Joint Aviation Electronic Warfare Officer (EWO) School, Randolph AFB, TX and Pensacola NAS, FL
2. Dec 96 – May 97, Student, B-52H Formal Training Unit, Barksdale AFB, LA
3. Jun 97 – Jun 00, B-52H EWO, Flight Scheduler, Instructor and later Chief of Flight Scheduling, 20th Bomb

- Squadron, Barksdale AFB, LA
4. Jan 01 – Jun 02, B-52H Weapons Officer, Flight Examiner and Assistant Flight Commander, 96th Bomb Squadron, Barksdale AFB, LA
 5. Jul 02 – May 03, Air Force Intern Program, rotations on the Joint Staff, J-3 Operations and the Air Staff, Air and Space Operations Checkmate Division, Pentagon, Washington D.C.
 6. Jun 03 – Sep 03, Action Officer, Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff Executive Action Group Pentagon, Washington D.C.
 7. Oct 03 – Jul 06, Instructor & Flight Commander, 340th Weapons Squadron, USAF Weapons School, 57th Wing, Nellis AFB, NV
 8. Aug 06 – Jun 07, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
 9. Jul 07 – Jun 08, Student, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, AL
 10. Jul 07 – Jul 10, Branch Chief and later Deputy Division Chief, Strategy and Plans, 9th Air Force and US Air Forces Central Command, Shaw AFB, SC
 11. Aug 10 – Feb 11, Wing Chief of Safety, 2nd Bomb Wing, Barksdale AFB, LA
 12. Mar 11 – Jun 12, Commander, 96th Bomb Squadron, Barksdale AFB, LA
 13. Jul 12 – May 13, National Defense Visiting Fellow, Stimson Center, Washington D.C.
 14. Jun 13 – Aug 13, Student, Joint Forces Staff College, National Defense University, Norfolk, VA
 15. Sep 13 – Aug 14, Chief of Future Strategic Concepts, J-8 Force Structure, Resources, and Assessment Directorate, Joint Staff, Pentagon, Washington D.C.
 16. Sep 14 – present, Director of the Joint Staff Innovation Group, Joint Staff, Pentagon, Washington D.C.

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

Sep 2013 – Aug 2014, Chief of Future Strategic Concepts, J-8 Force Structure, Resources and Assessments Directorate, Joint Staff, Pentagon, Washington D.C., as a lieutenant colonel.

Sep 2014 – present, Director of Joint Staff Innovation Group, Joint Staff, Pentagon, Washington D.C., as a colonel.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: senior navigator and naval flight officer

Flight hours: 2,200 (237 combat)

Aircraft flown: B-52, T-39, T-37 and T-43

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters

Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2011 Mitchell Trophy (Best Bomb, AF Global Strike Challenge)—#1/19 B-1, B-2, B-52 teams; 96th Bomb Sq

2011 Bartsch Trophy (Best ECM, AF Global Strike Challenge)—#1/10 B-52 teams; 96th Bomb Sq

2011 Linebacker Trophy (Best B-52 Squadron, AF Global Strike Challenge)--#1/10 B-52 sqs; 96th Bomb Sq

2011 Air Force Global Strike Command David C. Schilling Award Nominee, 96th Bomb Sq

2011 Guam Chamber of Commerce Na La Bonita Award, 96th Bomb Sq

2010 Air Force Global Strike Command Flight Safety Excellence Award, 2nd BW Safety

2010 Air Force Global Strike Command Columbian Trophy winner, 2nd BW Safety

2007 Distinguished Graduate, Air Command and Staff College

2006 Certificate of Merit, Association of Old Crows

2005-06 Top Electronic Warfare Instructor Award, Classes 05A, 05B, & 06A, 340th Weapons Squadron

2000 Distinguished Graduate, Top Flyer Award, USAF Weapons School

PUBLICATIONS

“David Jones,” *Air Force Magazine*, August 2014.

“The Role of U.S. Nuclear Weapons in Assuring South Korea,” *Nuclear Notes*, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2013.

Published reviews in *Strategic Studies Quarterly* and *Air and Space Journal*, Air University, 2013.

Published review in *Joint Forces Quarterly*, National Defense University, 2013.

Contributed to *Forging a Consensus on a Sustainable US Nuclear Posture*, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2013.

America’s Joint General: Leadership Analysis of Air Force General David C. Jones, BiblioScholar Press, 2012.

“Advanced Information Display Technology: Holographic Enhancements to the Air, Space and Cyberspace Fight,” *Horizon 21 Project Report 2007*, AU Center for Strategy and Technology.

DATES OF PROMOTIONS

Second Lieutenant	14 May 1995
First Lieutenant	31 May 1997
Captain	31 May 1999
Major	01 Nov 2005
Lieutenant Colonel	01 Mar 2009
Colonel	01 Oct 2014

(Current as of Jun 2015)