



# BIOGRAPHY

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

## LIEUTENANT COLONEL MICHAEL D. CLAPPER

Lieutenant Colonel Clapper received his Bachelor's degree and earned his commission in 2001 through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Northern Colorado. Upon graduation he reported to the 13<sup>th</sup> Air Support Operations Squadron at Fort Carson Army Installation, Colorado while awaiting pilot training. In May of 2003, Lieutenant Colonel Clapper graduated from Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot training at Sheppard AFB, Texas where he remained as an Instructor Pilot in the T-38 through 2006. Lieutenant Colonel Clapper then graduated from F-16 Initial Flight Training at Luke AFB, Arizona in late 2007 and reported to the 36<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron at Osan AB, Republic of Korea. Next, he was reassigned to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Squadron at Spangdahlem AB, Germany, in 2009. Upon arriving in Germany, Lieutenant Colonel Clapper immediately deployed to Iraq with the "Big 22" in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Upon his return, he upgraded to F-16 Mission Commander, graduated from the NATO Tactical Leadership Programme and then deployed with the recently reactivated 480<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron to Aviano AB, Italy in support of Operation Odyssey Dawn and Operation Unified Protector. After supporting operations against Libya, Lieutenant Colonel Clapper deployed back to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn. After transferring F-16 operations out of Iraq, Lieutenant Colonel Clapper returned to Germany in 2011 where he completed his instructor pilot upgrade. Eventually, he was reassigned to Shaw AFB, South Carolina where he completed his evaluator pilot upgrade, served as the 20<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, Chief of Standardization and Evaluation and later as the 20<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron, Director of Operations. In late 2014 Lieutenant Colonel Clapper moved to Holloman AFB, where he recently completed his tour as the 314<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, Director of Operations. He is married to his high school sweetheart, the former Brandi Wearing, of Broomfield Colorado. They have two daughters, Peightyn and Paige, and a son, Preston.



### EDUCATION

2001 Bachelor of Arts, University of Northern Colorado, CO  
2001 Aerospace Basic Course, Maxwell AFB, AL  
2009 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, AL  
2011 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence  
2012 Masters of Aeronautical Science, Embry-Riddle University

### ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 2001 – Mar 2002, Chief of Current Operations, 13<sup>th</sup> ASOS, Ft Carson AIN, CO
2. Mar 2002 – May 2003, Student Pilot, Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training, Sheppard AFB, TX
3. May 2003 – January 2007, T-38 Instructor Pilot, Assistant Flight Commander, 90<sup>th</sup> FTS, Sheppard AFB, TX
4. January 2007 – January 2008, F-16 Student Pilot, 308<sup>th</sup> FS, Luke AFB, AZ
5. January 2008 – January 2009, F-16 Pilot, Wing Plans Assistant Flight Commander, 51 FW, Osan AB, ROK
6. January 2009 – May 2012, F-16 Instructor Pilot, Flight Commander, Assistant Director of Operations 480<sup>th</sup> FS, Spangdahlem AB, GE
7. May 2012 – November 2014, F-16 Evaluator Pilot, Assistant Director of Operations, 79<sup>th</sup> FS; Chief of Standardization and Evaluations, 20<sup>th</sup> OG; Director of Operations, 20<sup>th</sup> OSS, Shaw AFB, SC.
8. November 2014 – May 2017, F-16 Evaluator Pilot, Director of Inspections, 54<sup>th</sup> FG; Director of Operations, 314<sup>th</sup> FS Holloman AFB, NM.

**FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: More than 2,750, including 475 combat hours in Operations Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, Odyssey Dawn, and Unified Protector

Aircraft flown: T-37, T-38A/C, F-16C/D

**MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Force Achievement Medal

Air Force Combat Action Medal

Combat Readiness Medal

National Defense Service Medal

Iraq Campaign Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Korean Defense Service Medal

Air & Space Campaign Medal

Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal

NATO Medal

**EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant – May 30, 2001

First Lieutenant – May 30, 2003

Captain – May 30, 2005

Major – June 1, 2011

Lieutenant Colonel – July 1, 2016

*(Current as of April 2017)*