



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

MAJOR ERIK M. BLUM

Major Erik M. Blum serves as the Recruiting Officer and Professor of Aerospace Studies at Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) Detachment 880 at Virginia Military Institute (VMI), Air University, AETC, Lexington, Virginia. In this role, he oversees curriculum development for 250 VMI cadets, ensures recruiting and accessions standards are kept, instructs and influences highly qualified prospective Air Force officers.

Major Blum was commissioned in 2010 through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps upon graduating from Virginia Military Institute with a degree in Civil & Environmental Engineering. He attained a master's degree in Military Operational Art and Science from the Air University in 2021.



Prior to this assignment, Major Blum was the Response Operations Chief for the Natural Disaster Recovery Division as part of the Air Force Civil Engineer Center at Tyndall AFB, FL where he established 24/7 agile combat support for damage assessment, planning, programming and reconstruction efforts after a natural disaster for continuation of mission operations. Additionally, he served as the construction support chief for a \$4.9 billion construction effort to rebuild Tyndall AFB following Hurricane Michael in 2018, and the beddown of three squadrons of fifth generation fighter aircraft.

Major Blum also serves as an Air Advisor where he has conducted 4 overseas deployments embedded with host nation forces. He spent 14 months with the Afghan Air Force, training, advising and assisting 300 engineers across 7 provinces in Afghanistan to beddown the A-29 Super Tucano and MD-530F Cayuse Warrior. Major Blum was also the Director of Operations for the 475th Expeditionary Air Base Squadron, Camp Simba at Manda Bay, Kenya where he partnered with the Kenyan Defence Force enabling Special Operations Command Africa missions in Kenya and Somalia.

EDUCATION

2010 Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil & Environmental Engineering, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va.

2010 Graduate, Air and Space basic Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2017 Graduate, Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2021 Master of Military Operational Art & Science, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2021 Graduate, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. May 2010 – March 2012, student, undergraduate pilot training, NAS Whiting Field, Florida.
2. March 2012 – March 2013, Military Construction Program Manager, 1st Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Florida.
3. March 2013 – July 2014, Deputy Director of Engineering, 1st Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Florida.
4. July 2014 – November 2015, Emergency Management Flight Commander, 1st Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Florida.

5. November 2015 – March 2017, Deputy Director Combined-Joint Engineering, 438th Air Expeditionary Wing, Train Advise Assist Command – Air, Afghanistan.
6. March 2017 – May 2020 – Deputy Commander Engineering Flight, 48th Civil Engineer Squadron, RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom.
7. May 2020 – February 2022, Construction Support Chief, Natural Disaster Recovery Division, Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Tyndall AFB, Florida.
8. February 2022 – July 2022, Response Operations Chief, Natural Disaster Recovery Division, Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Tyndall AFB, Florida.
9. July 2022 – present, Recruiting Officer, AFROTC Det 880, Virginia Military Institute, Virginia.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Bronze Star Medal
Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal
Afghanistan Campaign Medal
Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal with 2 Service Stars
Humanitarian Service Medal
Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant	May 15, 2010
First Lieutenant	July 21, 2012
Captain	July 21, 2014
Major	May 1, 2020

(Current as of July 2022)