



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL NICHOLAS A. COOPER

Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas A. Cooper is the Director of Staff 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.

Lieutenant Colonel Cooper entered the U.S. Air Force in May 2009 after commissioning from the Virginia Military Institute and has served fourteen years on active duty. Prior to his current position, he served as the Branch Chief for Strategic Planning and Engagement, J6 Communications Directorate, United States Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

EDUCATION

2009 Bachelor of Arts in History, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, VA.
2009 Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell AFB, AL.
2009 Basic Communications Officer Training, Keesler AFB, MS.
2015 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, AL.
2016 Master of Arts in Executive Leadership, Liberty University, VA
2022 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Jul 2009 – Jun 2011, Flight Operations Officer, 53rd Combat Communications Squadron, Robins AFB, GA.
2. Jun 2011 – Jul 2012, Flight Commander, Combat Airfield Systems, 53rd Combat Communications Squadron, Robins AFB, GA.
3. Jul 2012 – May 2014, Joint Intelligence Operations Center Technical Integration Chief, Defense Intelligence Agency, Bolling AFB, D.C.
4. May 2014 – Jul 2015, Executive Officer, Defense Intelligence Agency, Bolling AFB, D.C.
5. Jul 2015 – May 2016, Flight Commander, 338 Training Squadron, Keesler AFB, MS.
6. May 2016 – Aug 2017, Executive Officer, 81st Training Group, Keesler AFB, MS.
7. Aug 2017 – Jul 2019, Director of Operations 338 Training Squadron, Keesler AFB, MS.
8. Jul 2019 – Jul 2020, Director of Operations, 39th Communications Squadron, Incirlik AB, Turkey.
9. Jul 2020 – Jul 2023, Branch Chief, Strategic Planning and Engagement, J6, HQ USSOCOM, MacDill AFB, FL.
10. Jul 2023 – present, Director of Staff, AFROTC Det 880, Virginia Military Institute, Virginia.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal
Joint Service Commendation medal
Air Force Commendation Medal
Joint Service Achievement Medal
Air Force Achievement Medal
National Defense Service Medal



Iraq Campaign Medal
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 27, 2009
First Lieutenant May 27, 2011
Captain May 27, 2013
Major March 1, 2019
Lieutenant Colonel April 1, 2024

(Current as of August 2024)