

Biography

Lt Col Craig “Hawk” Nordgren is a military professor in the Joint Military Operations Department. He previously served as the commander of the 334th Fighter Squadron and the Chief of Staff of the 4th Fighter Wing. As an F-15E pilot, he has flown over 2,400 hours, including over 800 combat hours in four deployments to Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, Operation ODYSSEY DAWN, and Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. He received a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from Boston University, a Master’s Degrees in Aeronautical Technology from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, and a Master’s Degree in National Securities and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College.

Professional Highlights

2024 Student, U.S. Naval War College, Newport, RI

Graduated from the U.S. Naval War College and joined the faculty in 2025.

2022 Commander, 334 Fighter Squadron, 4th Fighter Wing

Led 82 personnel responsible for 18 F-15E aircraft and a \$1.2 million budget. Directed and steered the most efficient formal training unit in the combat air forces. Trained over 100 students annually. Guided organization restructure, pioneered syllabi and optimized decreasing aircraft availability.

2021 Chief of Staff, 4th Fighter Wing

Supervised 158 Airmen and 17 civilians while directing activities of 23 agencies and six directorates. Managed key functions of wing staff while undergoing revolutionary reorganization into Deployable Combat Wing (DCW). Instituted agile combat employment skills and procedures while restructuring deployable combat force elements. Enabled first ever DCW-like deployment responsible for defense of Israel from Iranian hostile actions.

2020 Director of Operations, 4th Training Squadron, 4th Fighter Wing

Directed \$198 million-dollar training program and quality assurance for \$135 million in contracts. Managed training program during unprecedented reduction in aircraft availability.

2019 Branch Chief, Directorate of Air and Space Operations (A3), Air Combat Command

Responsible for readiness report and operational training requirements for all air force fighter aircraft. Led integration of human weapon systems initiatives and contracts to enable the warfighter. Designed, developed, and tested and new pilot production model to increase pilot and combat aircraft capacity.

2018, Combat Air Forces Fellow, Air Combat Command

One of four critical thinkers for 4-star commander of Air Combat Command. Authored “Rebuilding the Forge” COMEMP for how to enable Gen. Holmes WOTR article, *Rebuilding the Forge: Reshaping How the Air Force Trains Aviators*

2017, Aide-de-Camp, Commander Air Combat Command

Responsible for travel for MAJCOM commander. Enabled global operations and kept 4-star connected with MAJCOM staff while geographically separate. Supported 57 travel

engagements, 11 Congressional engagements, and several GO summits. Ensured COMACC connected to both MAJCOM Airmen and supported all press engagements.

Education

M.A., U.S. Naval War College, 2025, *National Security and Strategic Studies*

M.S., Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, 2013, *Aeronautical Technology*

B.S., Boston University, 2005, *Aerospace Engineering*

Areas of Expertise

Afghanistan

Air Warfare

China

COIN

Command and Control

HA/DR

Joint Operations

Leadership

Nuclear

Operational Warfare

Syria