



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES R. SEARS JR.

Brig. Gen. Jim Sears is Director of Plans, Programs and Requirements, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio Randolph, Texas. He is responsible for planning and programming \$7.6 billion annually supporting 60,000 personnel across 22 bases charged with recruiting, training, and educating for the United States Air Force and our international partners. He develops AETC's inputs to the Program Objective Memorandum, leads AETC Strategic Planning, and manages flying training and technical training operational capability requirements.

General Sears was commissioned in 1991 as a graduate from the United States Air Force Academy. He has commanded the 61st Fighter Squadron, 20th Operations Group, 14th Flying Training Wing, and 455th Air Expeditionary Wing and has held a variety of staff positions. His flight experience includes C-130 low level special operations, every conventional mission in the F-16, and three AETC assignments as an instructor pilot. Prior to his current assignment he was the AETC Director of Intelligence, Operations, and Nuclear Integration.



General Sears is a command pilot with more than 3,600 flying hours, including contingency and combat sorties over Bosnia, Yemen, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

EDUCATION

1991 Bachelor of Science in political science, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
 1997 Master of Arts in human resource development, Webster University
 1998 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
 2003 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
 2005 Air War College, by correspondence
 2006 Master of Science in joint campaign planning and strategy, Joint Advanced Warfighting School, National Defense University, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.
 2011 Leadership Development Program, Center for Creative Leadership
 2012 Executive Leadership Development Program, Darden School of Business, University of Virginia

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 1991 - September 1992, student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Williams AFB, Ariz.
2. October 1992 - January 1993, student, C-130 Formal Training Unit, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
3. January 1993 - December 1995, C-130 Aircraft Commander, Special Operations Low-Level II Pilot, and mission scheduler, 40th and 41st Airlift Squadrons, Pope AFB, N.C.
4. December 1995 - March 1998, Assistant Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, T-3A Instructor Pilot, Chief Spin Pilot, and Flight Examiner, 557th Flying Training Squadron, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
5. April 1998 - Jun 1999, student, F-16 Formal Training Unit, Luke AFB, Ariz.

6. July 1999 - April 2002, Wing Training and Life Support Officer, Flight Commander, and F-16 Mission Commander, 18th Fighter Squadron, Eielson AFB, Alaska
7. May 2002 - April 2003, Assistant Director of Operations, F-16 Instructor Pilot and Flight Examiner, 35th Fighter Squadron, Kunsan Air Base, South Korea
8. April 2003 - June 2005, Deputy Director, Pacific Air Forces Commander's Action Group, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
9. July 2005 - June 2006, Senior Developmental Education Student, Joint Advanced Warfighting School, National Defense University, Naval Air Station Norfolk, Va.
10. July 2006 - July 2007, Chief of Wing Safety, 56th Fighter Wing, Luke AFB, Ariz.
11. July 2007 - October 2008, Commander, 61st Fighter Squadron, Luke AFB, Ariz.
12. October 2008 - August 2010, Special Assistant to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe and Commander, U.S. European Command, Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe, Belgium
13. August 2010 - June 2012, Commander, 20th Operations Group, Shaw AFB, S.C.
14. June 2012 – July 2014, Commander, 14th Flying Training Wing, Columbus AFB, Miss.
15. July 2014 – May 2016, Director of Assignments and AEF Operations, Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center, JB San Antonio-Randolph, Texas
16. June 2016 – June 2017, Commander, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan
17. July 2017 – April 2018, Director of Intelligence, Operations, and Nuclear Integration, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, JB San Antonio Randolph, Texas
18. April 2018 – present, Director of Plans, Programs and Requirements, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, JB San Antonio-Randolph, Texas

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. October 2008 - August 2010, Special Assistant to the SACEUR and Commander, USEUCOM, Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe, Belgium as a lieutenant colonel and colonel

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: command pilot

Flight hours: More than 3,600

Aircraft flown: C-130E, T-3A, F-16, and T-38C

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters

Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor

Device Bronze Star Medal

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster

Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 29, 1991

First Lieutenant May 29, 1993

Captain May 29, 1995

Major April 1, 2002

Lieutenant Colonel March 1, 2006

Colonel October 1, 2009

Brigadier General June 24, 2016

(Current as of May 2018)