



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOEL BANJO-JOHNSON

Lieutenant Colonel Joel Banjo-Johnson is the Commander, 43rd Force Support Squadron, Pope Army Airfield, North Carolina. She leads 60 civilian and military personnel providing full spectrum support to 2 Combatant Commands, 5 Major Commands, 4 Field Operating Agencies, 1 Direct Reporting Unit, 82d ABN Corps, and 7,500 Air Force Team Pope airmen, civilians, dependents, and retirees. She oversees Team Pope's Personnel Deployment Function process in support of the Immediate Response Force supporting the Secretary of Defense's National Mission Force and the personnel deployment functions for worldwide contingency operations. Prior to her current assignment, Lieutenant Colonel Joel Banjo-Johnson was the Chief of Operations, Air Force Global Strike Command, Public Affairs, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. She served as the advisor to the Air Force Global Strike commander and led communication operations for the headquarter and numbered Air Forces, supporting 25,000 members. Additionally, she served as the executive officer to the Air and Space Force Public Affairs Director where she was the trusted advisor to the general and principal liaison to the Joint Staff, National Guard Bureau, and Office of the Secretary of Defense, assisting the Director and Deputy with strategic communications for 6,000 global communicators.



Furthermore, she served as the Deputy Division Chief of Engagements where she coordinated with national media, academia and think tanks, creating advocates for outreach efforts involving the Secretary of the Air Force, Chief of Staff and Senior Air and Space Force leaders. She also served as a White House Social Aide, providing direct support to the First Family, senior cabinet officials and heads of state.

Prior to Pentagon assignments, Lieutenant Colonel Banjo-Johnson was the Chief of Public Affairs for the 36th Wing, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam where she led a team of 20, directing Public Affairs support to the wing and advised commanders on strategic plans and information operations. She also served as the executive officer and aide-de-camp to the Director, COMISAF Liaison to the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan where she was the trusted advisor to the senior uniformed Air Force officer, providing support to the embassy, State Department and Department of Defense staff and various military and development organizations, such as International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), ISAF Joint Command (IJC), US Forces-Afghanistan (USFOR-A), and US Agency for International Development (USAID).

She hails from London, England and earned her bachelor's degree and commission at East Carolina University, Greenville, N.C. through the Reserve Officers Training Corps program.

EDUCATION

2009 – Bachelor of Arts degree in Broadcast Journalism and German magna cum laude, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC.
2009 – Aerospace Basic Course, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
2009 – Defense Information School (Public Affairs Officer Qualification Course), Fort George G. Meade, Md.
2011 – Joint Expeditionary Public Affairs Course, Defense Information School, Fort George G Meade, Md.
2014 – Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
2017 – Master of Science degree in Strategic Communication, George Mason University, Fairfax, Va. 2021 – Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 2009 - January 2010, Deputy Chief of Public Affairs, 60th Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base, Calif.
2. January - March 2010, student, Public Affairs Officer Course, Defense Information School, Fort Meade, Md.
3. March 2010 - August 2011, Deputy Chief of Public Affairs, 60th Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base, Calif.
4. August 2011 - September 2013, Deputy Chief of Public Affairs, 86th Airlift Wing, Ramstein AB, Germany.





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5. September 2013 - August 2014, Executive Officer/Aide-de-Camp to Director, COMISAF Liaison to the U.S. Embassy, Kabul, Afghanistan.
6. August 2014 - August 2016; Chief of Public Affairs, 36th Wing, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam
7. August 2016 - December 2017; AFIT Strategic Communication Masters Student, George Mason University Fairfax, Va.
8. December 2017 – January 2018: Opinion Leader, Engagements, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs, Pentagon, Washington D.C.
9. January 2018 – January 2019: Deputy Chief, Engagement Division, Secretary of the Air and Space Force Public Affairs, Pentagon, Washington D.C.
10. January 2019 – August 2020: Executive Officer to Director, Air and Space Force Public Affairs, Pentagon, Washington D.C.
11. August 2020 – July 2021: Student, Air Command and Staff College, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
12. July 2021 – July 2023: Chief of Operations, Air Force Global Strike Command Public Affairs, Barksdale AFB, LA.
- July 2023 – Present: Commander, 43rd Force Support Squadron, Pope Army Airfield, NC.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal
Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with one oak leaf cluster
Air Force Recognition Ribbon
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Headquarters Air Force Global Strike Command Field Grade Officer of the Year (2022)
Air Force Global Strike Command Public Affairs Field Grade Officer of the Year (2022)
Headquarters Air Force Company Grade Officer of the Year (2018)
East Carolina University 40-Under-40 Leadership Award (2015)
Air Force Level Public Affairs Company Grade Officer of the Year (2011)
United States Air Force Europe-AF Africa Public Affairs Company Grade Officer of the Year (2011)

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTIONS

Second Lieutenant 15 Jun 2009
First Lieutenant 14 Jun 2011
Captain 15 Jun 2013
Major 1 April 2019
Lieutenant Colonel 1 Nov 2023

(Current as of March 2024)

