



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL NICOLAIS R. CHIGHIZOLA

Lieutenant Colonel Nicolais R. Chighizola is the Dean, Squadron Officer School (SOS), Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. At SOS, he oversees the development and delivery of curriculum in professional military education for more than 4,000 students annually. He also leads SOS's Academic Affairs directorate, which maintains three departments, course support, the USSF concentration, and program assessments in support of PME operations.

Lieutenant Colonel Chighizola received his commission from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 2006. As a C-130H instructor and evaluator pilot, he commanded crews of six C-130H aircrew members and instructed over 350 student pilots per year. He is a senior pilot, and has flown 136 combat missions in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn. Prior to his current position, Colonel Chighizola held multiple roles within SOS, including flight commander, operations officer, and Vice Dean.



EDUCATION

- 2006 Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- 2006 Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2012 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2012 Masters of Business Administration, Auburn University, Auburn, Ala.
- 2016 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
- 2021 Air War College, by correspondence
- 2021 Doctor of Philosophy, Business and Management, University of Maryland – College Park

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. July 2006–June 2007, Student, undergraduate pilot training, Vance AFB, Okla.
2. June 2007–May 2008, Student, undergraduate pilot training, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas
3. May 2008–January 2009, Student, C-130H pilot initial qualification, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
4. January 2009–August 2012, C-130H Aircraft Commander, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, and Resource Advisor, 39th Airlift Squadron, Dyess AFB, Texas
5. October 2012–October 2013, C-130H Instructor Pilot and Chief of Flight Training, 53rd Airlift Squadron, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
6. October 2013–August 2015, Wing Chief of Flight Safety, Flight Commander, and C-130H Evaluator Pilot, 314th Airlift Wing, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
7. August 2015–June 2016, C-130H Evaluator Pilot, Chief of Standardizations and Evaluations, and Director of Staff, 62nd Airlift Squadron, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
8. June 2016–July 2018, Flight Commander, ADO, & DO, 31st Student Squadron, Squadron Officer College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
9. August 2018–July 2021, Student, University of Maryland – College Park
10. July 2021–present, Vice Dean and Dean, Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Senior Pilot
Flight hours: More than 1,800, including more than 760 combat hours
Aircraft flown: C-130E/H, T-6B, T-44A

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal
Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Academy of Management
American Psychological Association

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 31, 2006
First Lieutenant May 31, 2008
Captain May 31, 2010
Major June 1, 2016
Lieutenant Colonel April 1, 2021

(Current as of November 2022)