

Capt. Michael W. Bell

Maintenance Officer

Capt. Michael Bell is the Maintenance Officer for the United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. As Thunderbird 11, he leads 90 personnel across 13 distinct logistics specialties to maintain the squadron's 13 assigned F-16 block-52 aircraft and associated support equipment. Bell is in his second season with the team.

Bell entered the Air Force in 2011 with a Reserve Officer Training Corps commission from Rutgers University. He is a Senior Aircraft Maintenance Officer with experience on F-15C/D/E, F-16CJ, F-22A and F-35A aircraft. Bell has led aircraft maintenance teams in the generation of 18,250 sorties. He has also served as the Executive Officer to the 35th Fighter Wing Commander. Bell has deployed multiple times to the Central Command area of operations in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Inherent Resolve. Prior to joining the Thunderbirds, Bell served as the Chief of Tactics for the 57th Maintenance Group, Nellis AFB, Nev.



EDUCATION

2011 Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, Rutgers University, Distinguished Graduate
2016 Squadron Officer School
2018 Advanced Maintenance and Munitions Operations School, Distinguished Graduate
2020 Master of Public Administration, Pennsylvania State University

ASSIGNMENTS

Feb 2012 - Sep 2012 Fabrication Flight Commander, 48th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, RAF Lakenheath, U.K.
Sep 2012 - Jun 2013 Assistant Officer-in-Charge, 494th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, RAF Lakenheath, U.K.
Jun 2013 - Mar 2014 Officer-in-Charge, 493rd Aircraft Maintenance Unit, RAF Lakenheath, U.K.
Mar 2014 - Nov 2014 Maintenance Flight Commander, 35th Maintenance Squadron, Misawa Air Base, Japan
Nov 2014 - Nov 2015 Officer-in-Charge, 35th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Misawa AB, Japan
Nov 2015 - Jan 2017 Officer-in-Charge, 35th AMS, Misawa AB, Japan
Jan 2017 - Sep 2017 Director of Operations, 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Central Command
Sep 2017 - Jul 2018 Executive Officer, 35rd Fighter Wing, Misawa AB, Japan
Jul 2018 - Dec 2019 Chief of Tactics, 57th Maintenance Group, Nellis AFB, Nev.
Dec 2019 – Present Thunderbird #11, Maintenance Officer, USAF Air Demonstration Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nev.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster
Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster
Air Force Achievement Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant Aug 2011
First Lieutenant Aug 2013
Captain Aug 2015