

Maj. Zane J. Taylor

Right Wing

Maj. Zane J. Taylor is the Right Wing Pilot for the United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. As Thunderbird 3, he flies the #3 jet and serves as the Chief of Scheduling. He is in his second season with the team.

Taylor is a 2010 graduate of the USAF Academy. He completed the Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training at Vance Air Force Base, Okla., and was selected for F-16 training at Joint Base San Antonio Lackland-Kelly, Texas, in 2012. After completing pilot training, he was assigned to the 77th Fighter Squadron, Shaw AFB, S.C. before becoming a flight commander for the 80 FS, Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, where he was named Flight Lead of the Year. He has more than 1,400 hours in the F-16, including 280 combat hours over Iraq and Syria in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. Prior to the Thunderbirds, Taylor served as Evaluator Pilot and Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, 8th FS, Holloman AFB, N.M.



EDUCATION

2010 Bachelor of Science degree in Systems Engineering, USAF Academy
2010 Air and Space Basic Course, Squadron Officer College, Top Flight Jay Smith Memorial Award Winner
2017 Squadron Officer School, Flight Top Graduate, Flight Outstanding Contributor, Distinguished Graduate

ASSIGNMENTS

Jul 2010 - Aug 2012 Student, Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, Vance Air Force Base, Okla.
Aug 2012 - Jul 2013 Student, F-16 Basic Qualification Course, JBSA Lackland-Kelly, Texas
Jul 2013 - Mar 2016 Assistant Chief of Scheduling/Electronic Combat Pilot/Flight Lead, 77th Fighter Squadron, Shaw AFB, S.C.
Mar 2016 - Apr 2017 Wing Electronic Combat Officer/Flight Commander/Instructor Pilot, 80th FS, Kunsan AB, ROK
Apr 2017 - Jul 2018 Chief of Training/Chief of Standardization and Evaluation/Evaluator Pilot, 8th FS, Holloman AFB, N.M.
July 2018 - Dec 2020 Thunderbird #4, Slot, USAF Air Demonstration Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nev.
Dec 2020 - Present Thunderbird #3, Right Wing, USAF Air Demonstration Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nev.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Senior Pilot
Flight hours: More than 1,700
Combat hours: More than 280
Aircraft flown: T-6A, T-38, AT-38, F-16

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Air Medal with one oak leaf cluster
Aerial Achievement Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 2010
First Lieutenant May 2012
Captain May 2014
Major Dec 2019