

Lt. Col. Kevin J. DiFalco

Director of Operations

Lt. Col. Kevin J. DiFalco is the Director of Operations for the United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. As Thunderbird 7, he leads the Operations Section, which includes communications, computer systems analysts, training, standardization and evaluation, aircrew flight equipment and airlift support. He is in his second season with the team.

DiFalco commissioned in 2004 as a distinguished graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Colorado at Boulder and earned his pilot rating in 2006. He is a former instructor at the USAF Weapons School and Chief of Staff Master's Fellow in Public Policy. DiFalco has flown more than 1,900 hours, including more than 297 combat flight hours. Prior to the Thunderbirds, he served as the Assistant Director of Operations for the 555th Fighter Squadron and Director of Operations for the 31st Operations Support Squadron, Aviano AB, Italy.



EDUCATION

2004 Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering, University of Colorado at Boulder
2010 Squadron Officer School
2011 United States Air Force Weapons Instructor Course, Distinguished Graduate
2014 Master of Science degree in Aerospace Science, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
2018 Master of Public Policy, Princeton University
2019 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence

ASSIGNMENTS

Jan 2005 - Jul 2006 Student Pilot, Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals, Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program, 80th Operations Support Squadron, Sheppard AFB, Texas
Jul 2006 - Jun 2007 Student Pilot, F-16 Replacement Training Unit, 309th Fighter Squadron/Night Systems, 310th FS, Luke AFB, Ariz.
Jun 2007 - Feb 2011 Standards and Evaluation Officer/Personnel Reliability Program Monitor/Assistant Weapons Officer/Assistant Chief of Scheduling, 510th FS, Aviano Air Base, Italy
Feb 2011 - Jun 2011 Flight Commander, 35th FS Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea
Jul 2011 - Dec 2011 Weapons Instructor Course Student, USAF Weapons School, Nellis AFB, Nev.
Jan 2012 - Sep 2012 Wing Weapons Officer/Flight Commander, 8th OSS, Kunsan AB, ROK
Sep 2012 - Jan 2015 Chief of Weapons and Tactics/Flight Commander, 510th FS and 31st OSS, Aviano AB, Italy
Jan 2015 - Jul 2017 Chief of Standards and Evaluations, 16th Weapons Squadron, Wing Scheduler, 57th OSS, Precision Strike Flight Commander/Assistant Director of Operations, 16th Weapons Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nev.
Jul 2017 - Aug 2018 Chief of Staff of the Air Force Master's Fellow, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.
Aug 2018 - Sep 2019 Assistant Director of Operations, 555th FS/Director of Operations, 31st OSS, Aviano AB, Italy
Sep 2019 - Present Thunderbird #7, Operations Officer, USAF Air Demonstration Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nev.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Senior Pilot
Flight hours: More than 1,900
Combat hours: More than 297
Aircraft flown: T-37, T-38A, T-38C, F-16

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters
Air Medal with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal
Air Force Achievement Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant Jan 2005
First Lieutenant Jan 2007
Captain Jan 2009
Major Jun 2015
Lieutenant Colonel Nov 2019