



# UNITED STATES STRATEGIC COMMAND

## Biography

### General Anthony J. Cotton

#### **Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command Commander, Air Forces Strategic-Air**

Gen. Anthony J. Cotton is Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command and Commander, Air Forces Strategic-Air, U.S. Strategic Command, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. AFGSC provides strategic deterrence, global strike capability, and combat support to U.S. Strategic Command and other geographic combatant commands. The command is comprised of more than 33,700 professionals operating at two numbered air forces; 11 active duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve wings; and the Joint Global Strike Operations Center. Weapons systems assigned to AFGSC include all U.S. Air Force Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles and bomber aircraft, UH-1N helicopters, E-4B National Airborne Operations Center aircraft, and the U.S. Air Force NC3 weapons system.



Gen. Cotton entered the Air Force through the ROTC program in 1986 after earning a bachelor's degree in Political science from North Carolina State University in Raleigh. He has commanded at the squadron, group and wing levels. He served as Deputy Director of the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Executive Action Group, as Senior Military Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, Deputy Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, as well as Commander and President of Air University. He was also the Vice Commander and Commander of the 341st Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB, Montana, and the Commander of the 45th Space Wing and Director of the Eastern Range, Patrick AFB, Florida.

Prior to his current assignment, Gen. Cotton served as the Deputy Commander, AFGSC and Deputy Commander, Air Forces Strategic-Air, USSTRATCOM, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana.

### EDUCATION

1986 Bachelor of Science, Political Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh  
1991 Master of Science, Administration, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant  
1992 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.  
2001 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.  
2005 U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa.  
2006 Enterprise Leadership Seminar, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
2007 Phase II Professional Military Education, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.  
2009 Senior Managers Course on National Security, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.  
2014 AFSO 21 Executive Leadership Course, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
2017 Leadership Decision Making, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

2018 Pinnacle Course, National Defense University, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.  
2018 The Harvard Seminar for New Presidents, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, Mass.  
2018 Leadership at the Peak, Center for Creative Leadership, Colorado Springs, Colo.  
2020 Combined Forces Air Component Commander Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. October 1986–July 1991, Missile Combat Crew Commander; Standardization/Evaluation Missile Combat Crew Commander; Chief, Standardization/Evaluation Operations/Procedures Branch and Wing Executive Officer, 91st Missile Wing, Minot Air Force Base, N.D.
2. July 1991–April 1994, Command Operations Evaluator 3901st Missile Evaluation Squadron and Chief of Protocol, 20th Air Force, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
3. April 1994–April 1997, Space Surveillance Crew Commander, Flight Commander, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Colo.
4. April 1997–January 1999, Chief, Space Surveillance Optical Section; Space Surveillance Program Element Monitor; and Executive Officer to the Director of Operations, Headquarters Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, Colo.
5. January 1999–June 2000, Executive Officer to the Commander, 14th Air Force, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
6. June 2000–June 2001, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
7. June 2001–March 2004, Operations Officer, 45th Range Squadron; Commander, 3rd Space Launch Squadron; and Deputy Commander, 45th Operations Group, Patrick AFB, Fla.
8. March 2004–June 2005, Student, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa.
9. June 2005–March 2008, Deputy Director, Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Executive Action Group; Director, Preparation and Planning; and Senior Military Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.
10. April 2008–July 2009, Commander, Space Operations Group, Aerospace Data Facility-East, Fort Belvoir, Va.
11. July 2009–May 2010, Vice Commander, 341st Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.
12. May 2010–August 2011, Commander, 341st Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.
13. August 2011–June 2013, Commander, 45th Space Wing, and Director, Eastern Range, Patrick AFB, Fla.
14. June 2013–November 2015, Deputy Director, National Reconnaissance Office, Chantilly, Va.
15. November 2015–January 2018, Commander, 20th Air Force, Air Force Global Strike Command, Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyo.
16. February 2018–October 2019, Commander and President, Air University, Air Education and Training Command, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
17. October 2019–August 2021, Deputy Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command, and Deputy Commander, Air Forces Strategic–Air, U.S. Strategic Command, Barksdale AFB, La.
18. August 2021–present, Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command, and Commander, Air Forces Strategic–Air, U.S. Strategic Command, Barksdale AFB, La.

## **SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS**

1. March 2006–June 2007, Director, Preparation and Planning; and Senior Military Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va., as a colonel
2. June 2007–April 2008, Senior Military Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va., as a colonel
3. April 2008–July 2009, Commander, Space Operations Group, Aerospace Data Facility East, Fort Belvoir, Va. (National Reconnaissance Office), as a colonel

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster  
Defense Superior Service Medal with oak leaf cluster  
Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster  
Defense Meritorious Service Medal  
Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters  
Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster  
Air Force Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster  
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with oak leaf cluster  
Combat Readiness Medal with oak leaf cluster  
National Defense Service Medal with device  
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal  
National Reconnaissance Office Medal of Distinguished Performance

## **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant- June 7, 1986  
First Lieutenant- June 7, 1988  
Captain- June 7, 1990  
Major- March 1, 1998  
Lieutenant Colonel- March 1, 2002  
Colonel- Dec. 1, 2006  
Brigadier General- Nov. 10, 2011  
Major General- July 6, 2015  
Lieutenant General- Feb. 15, 2018  
General- Aug. 27, 2021

*(Current as of August 2021)*