



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

MAJOR MICHAEL T. KEELING

Major Michael T. Keeling is the Director of Staff, 558th Flying Training Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio - Randolph, Texas. As Director of Staff, Major Keeling oversees the Air Force's only undergraduate training squadron for Remotely Piloted Aircraft pilots and sensor operators, graduating over 850 students annually. He is also responsible for leading the commander's support staff and supporting daily functions of the squadron commander. Major Keeling instructs 448 student pilots a year in the 558th's RPA Fundamentals Course shaping the nation's newest RPA aircrew.

Previously a Special Education teacher, Maj Keeling earned his commission in 2012 following graduation from Officer's Training School at Maxwell AFB as a Distinguished Graduate. He was selected to attend Undergraduate RPA Training at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. After receiving the aeronautical rating of RPA Pilot he was assigned to fly MQ-1s for AFSOC as part of the 3rd Special Operations Squadron at Cannon AFB, New Mexico. In 2014, Major Keeling was once again selected to attend flight training at Holloman AFB as the 3rd SOS transitioned from the MQ-1 to the MQ-9. In 2017 he was selected as part of the initial cadre to stand up what would become the 65th Special Operations Squadron at Hurlburt Field AFB, Florida. At the 65th, Major Keeling was a flight commander, line instructor pilot, and senior duty pilot overseeing daily flying operations. Major Keeling has flown combat and combat support missions in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, COPPER DUNE, INHERENT RESOLVE, NOMAD SHADOW, JUPITER GARRET and FREEDOM'S SENTINEL. Prior to his current position, Major Keeling was the Course Director of the 558ths Remotely Piloted Aircraft Fundamentals Course.

EDUCATION

2009 Bachelor of Science, Rhode Island College, Providence, Rhode Island
2012 Officer's Training School, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
2020 Squadron Officer School, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Alabama

ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 2012 – May 2013, Student, Undergraduate Remotely Piloted Aircraft Training, 558th Flying Training Squadron, JBSA-Randolph, Texas
2. August 2013 – July 2017, MQ-1/MQ-9 Aircraft Commander, Weapons and Tactics Officer, R&D Officer, 3rd Special Operations Squadron, Cannon AFB, New Mexico
3. July 2017 – Sep 2020, MQ-9 Instructor Pilot, Chief of Weapons and Tactics, Chief of Plans, Flight Commander, 65th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field AFB, Florida
4. Sep 2020 – Present, Undergraduate RPA Training Instructor/Evaluator, Flight Commander, Remotely Piloted Aircraft Fundamentals Course Director, Director of Staff, 558th Flying Training Squadron, JBSA-Randolph, Texas

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Ratings: Senior RPA Pilot
Flight hours: 2,217 Combat and Combat Support hours
Aircraft Flown: DA-20, MQ-1B, MQ-9A

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Aerial Achievement Medal with 11 Oak Leaf clusters
Air and Space Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Leaf clusters
Air and Space Achievement Medal
Afghanistan Campaign Medal with 1 Service Star
Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal with 1 Service Star
Air and Space Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border with 1 Oak Leaf cluster

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant - 24 May 2012
First Lieutenant – 24 May 2014
Captain – 24 May 2016
Major – 01 April 2022

(Current as of Nov 2022)