

LIEUTENANT COLONEL MICHAEL B. KELLY

Lieutenant Colonel Michael B. Kelly is the Commander of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) Detachment 790 at Tennessee State University, Nashville, Tennessee. He is responsible for recruiting and overseeing the preparation of officer candidates through a comprehensive college program at Tennessee State University and 11 cross-town universities.

Lieutenant Colonel Kelly received his commission in 2008 through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of Missouri. He is a Master Air Battle Manager with more than 2,100 flying hours in the E-3 Sentry (AWACS), including over 670 combat hours. Lieutenant Colonel Kelly has held a variety of operational and staff positions at the Squadron, Wing, and Major Command levels.

Most recently, Lieutenant Colonel Kelly served as the Deputy Chief of the International Affairs Division, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces. In this role, he was responsible for guiding strategy and security cooperation efforts with allied and partner nations across the Indo-Pacific region.



EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant: June 16, 2008

First Lieutenant: June 16, 2010

Captain: June 16, 2012

Major: April 1, 2018

Lieutenant Colonel: March 1, 2023

EDUCATION

2008: Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, University of Missouri

2008: Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama

2013: Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Alabama

2017: Master of Arts, Political Science and International Relations, University of Oklahoma

2022: Master of Operational Art and Science, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama

2026: Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama

ASSIGNMENTS

August 2008 - July 2009: Student, Undergraduate Air Battle Manager Training, 325th Training Squadron, Tyndall AFB, Florida.

July 2009 - June 2010: Student, E-3 AWACS Initial Qualification Training, 552nd Training Squadron, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma.

June 2010 - May 2013: E-3 Air Battle Manager and Deputy Chief Squadron Training, 960th Airborne Air Control Squadron, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma.

May 2013 – November 2014: Assistant Flight Commander, 960th Airborne Air Control Squadron, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma.

November 2014 - October 2015: Flight Commander, 729th Air Control Squadron, Hill AFB, Utah

October 2015 - May 2016: Chief of Standards and Evaluations, 729th Air Control Squadron, Hill AFB, Utah

May 2016 - January 2017: Section Commander, 729th Air Control Squadron, Hill AFB, Utah

January 2017 - August 2017: Assistant Director of Operations, Cyber, and Maintenance, 729th Air Control Squadron, Hill AFB, Utah

August 2017 - August 2018: Chief of Requirements, 962nd Airborne Air Control Squadron, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska

August 2018 – August 2019: Wing Executive Officer, 3rd Wing, JB Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska
August 2019 – August 2020: Assistant Director of Operations, 962nd Airborne Air Control Squadron
July 2020 - July 2021: Director of Operations, 3rd Wing Alaska NORAD Region Detachment, JB Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska
July 2021 – July 2022: Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
July 2022 – June 2024: Chief, Multilateral Engagements, International Affairs Division, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii
June 2024 - June 2025: Chief Strategy and Plans Branch, International Affairs Division, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii
June 2025 - July 2026: Deputy Chief of the International Affairs Division, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii
July 2026 – Present: Commander, AFROTC Detachment 790, Tennessee State University, Nashville, Tennessee

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Master Air Battle Manager
Flight hours: More than 2,100
Combat hours: More than 670
Aircraft flown: E-3B/C

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster
Air Medal with one oak leaf cluster
Air and Space Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters
Air and Space Achievement Medal
Meritorious Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters
Air and Space Outstanding Unit Award with one oak leaf cluster
National Defense Service Medal
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
NATO Medal

(Current as of July 2026)