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| **Lieutenant Colonel Will Atkins As of:** February 2019 | | | |
| Contact  Information | WillAtkinsFL@gmail.com (307) 287-4063  5627 Cross Creek Dr.  Colorado Springs, CO 80924 | | |
| Education | **University of Florida** | 2018 | |
| M.A., Political Science |  | |
| **National Intelligence University** | 2015 | |
| M.S., Strategic Intelligence  Thesis: Toward a Normal Japan: The U.S.-Japan Alliance in 2025 *Recipient of the Lieutenant General Vernon A. Walters Award for International Affairs, and the National Intelligence University Research Award for the best graduate thesis in the entire university (#1 of 221)* |  | |
| **American Military University** | 2009 | |
| M.A., Political Science  *Graduated with Honors  Passed comprehensive examination ‘With Distinction’* |  | |
| **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University** | 2002 | |
| B.S., Electrical Engineering  Minors: Mathematics and Computer Science |  | |
| Other Training  & Education | **Air War College (Correspondence)** Emphasis on higher-level Air Force leadership, management, and ethics  **Joint Command and Staff College (Norfolk NAS, VA)**  Emphasis on leadership in a Joint, Interagency, and Multinational environment  **Army Command and General Staff Course (Correspondence)**  Emphasis on leadership in complex combat and contingency operations | 2017  2017  2014 | |
|  | **Air Command and Staff College (Correspondence)**  Emphasis on senior level management, leadership and administration | 2012 | |
|  | **Weapons Instructor Course (Little Rock AFB, AR)**  Thesis: Defensive Maneuvers for LAIRCM-Equipped C-130s  *Awarded best research paper* | 2008 | |
|  | **Squadron Officer School (Maxwell AFB, AL)**  Attended in-correspondence (2006) and in-residence (2007) | 2007 | |
|  | **C-130 Instructor Navigator Course (Little Rock AFB, AR)** | 2006 | |
|  | **C-130 Mission Qualification Course (Little Rock AFB, AR)**  *Distinguished Graduate* | 2004 | |
|  | **C-130 Basic Qualification Course (Little Rock AFB, AR)** *Distinguished Graduate* | 2004 | |
| Experience | **Six Deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan**  Four deployments as combat aircrew (2 Iraq, 2 Afghanistan)  Two deployments as Afghan Political Advisor  Awarded two Bronze Stars and three Air Medals  **Instructor of Political Science (US Air Force Academy, CO)**  Intro to American Government and National Security  **Political Affairs Strategist (Washington, D.C.)**  Coordinated engagement talks with 16 allied nations  Advisor to the Afghan National Security Council (2015-2016)  - Authored Afghan National Security Strategy (NSS)  - Drafted 8 Executive Orders/overhauled President’s Daily Brief  Advisor to the Commander of ISAF Forces-Afghanistan (2013-2014)  - Coordinated polling locations in Afghanistan for historic 2014 election | 2005-2016  2018-Present  2012-2017 | |
|  | **USAF Weapons School Instructor (Little Rock, AR)**  Top 1% of instructors chosen for the Air Force’s most demanding program  Researched/authored graduate-level courseware for four 23-week courses  Conducted 720 hours of instruction per year  Led 62 personnel through $442K capstone exercise…four times  Lead instructor of six academic courses for 15 students per semester | 2010-2012 | |
|  | **Assistant Operations Officer and Evaluator Navigator (Cheyenne, WY)**  #3 in charge; oversaw an $8M program and 100+ personnel  Performed classroom, simulator, in-flight instruction for over 100 students | 2009-2010 | |
|  | **Chief of Tactics and Instructor Navigator (Cheyenne, WY)**  Taught 27 combat skills courses per year for more than 250 personnel | 2007-2009 | |
|  | **Central Scheduler and Instructor Navigator (Yokota AB, Japan)**  Responsible for management of 90 personnel  Conducted 50 hours of instruction in 3 different courses | 2006-2007 | |
|  | **Executive Officer (Yokota AB, Japan)**  Provided counsel to the Commander of 150 personnel  Provided POTUS support to Beijing  First aircrew to arrive in Thailand in response to 2004 Tsunami  Awarded Humanitarian Service Medal for actions supporting Tsunami Relief | 2004-2006 | |
| **Other Grants, Fellowships, Honors, and Awards** | - Board of Governors (Ex Officio): Foreign Area Officer Association (FAOA)  - Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society  - Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society (top 10% of graduate students)  - Board of Directors: OperationMCP (Veteran Support Organization)  - Non-Resident Fellow: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)  - Adjunct Fellow: American Security Project  - Best Academic Instructor: USAF Weapons School  - Instructor Navigator of the Year (across all instructors in the United States)  - Top Third Graduate (with Honors): Squadron Officer School  - Young Leadership Award Winner: Yokota AB Japan  - Navigator of the Year: Yokota AB, Japan | 2018-Present  2019-Present  2018  2015-2017  2013-2016  2013-2015  2011  2008  2007  2007  2005 | |
| **Languages** | - Dari (OPI Score: 1+)  - Pashto (OPI Score: 1+) | 2015  2013 | |
| **Research  Interests** | American politics, East-Asian geopolitics, national security policy, international relations, American foreign policy, state politics | | |
| **Publications** | Atkins, Will. 2015. “Theory and Practice: Developing CCIRs through Alternative Analysis,” American Intelligence Journal, Vol 32, No 2, 115-116.  Atkins, Will. 2015. “Toward a Normal Japan: The U.S.-Japan Alliance in 2025”  Recipient of the Lieutenant General Vernon A. Walters Award for International Affairs, and the National Intelligence University Research Award for the best thesis in the university (#1 of 221). Pending publication in the FAOA Journal of International Affairs.  Atkins, Will. “Roadmap for Futenma: Operationalizing the New US-Japan Defense Guidelines,” The Diplomat, May 2015, http://thediplomat.com/2015/05/roadmap-for-futenma-operationalizing-the-new-us-japan-defense-guidelines/.  Atkins, Will. “Recommendations for the Future Balance of U.S.-Japan Relations,” The Diplomat, May 2014, http://thediplomat.com/2014/05/recommendations-for-the-future-balance-of-u-s-japan-relations/.  Atkins, Will. “Did a Chinese Hot Air Balloon Just Expose Japan’s Military?” Real Clear Defense, Jan 2014, http://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2014/01/09/did\_a\_hot\_air\_balloon\_just \_expose\_japans\_military\_107024.html.  Atkins, Will. “Future of Advising in Afghanistan,” American Security Project, Dec 2013, http://www.americansecurityproject.org/future-of-advising-in-afghanistan/. | | |
|  | Atkins, Will. “Way Forward for the U.S.-Japan Alliance,” American Security Project, Nov 2013, http://www.americansecurityproject.org/way-forward-for-the-u-s-japanese-alliance/. | | |
| **Conference**  **Presentations** | “Political Moneyball: Predicting Party Loyalty.” 2018. Presented at the annual Florida Political Science Association Conference in Ft. Myers, FL.  “Challenges Facing LAIRCM-Equipped C-130s.” 2010. Presented at the semi-annual Project Management Review (PMR) Conference of the Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) team at Northrop Grumman, Chicago, IL.  “LAIRCM Roll-out: Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures.” 2009. Presented at the annual Weapons and Tactics Conference (WEPTAC) at Scott AFB, IL.  “LAIRCM Development.” 2009. Presented at the annual Electronic Warfare Conference at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ.    “Readiness Status of the Wyoming Air National Guard.” 2009. Presented to the Governor of Wyoming at the 153d Airlift Wing, Cheyenne, WY. | |
| **Recent Courses Taught** | - Intro to American Government and National Security (Undergraduate), USAFA  - Research Paper Writing (Graduate), USAF Weapons School  - Aerodynamics (Graduate), USAF Weapons School  - Applied Mathematics (Graduate), USAF Weapons School  - Objective Area Analysis (Graduate), USAF Weapons School  - Historical Lessons Learned (Graduate), USAF Weapons School  - Flight Planning Software (Graduate), USAF Weapons School  - Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations (Graduate), USAF Weapons School  - Joint Precision Airdrop Systems (Undergraduate), Cheyenne, WY  - Virtual Threat Recognition and Avoidance (Undergraduate), Cheyenne, WY  - Night Vision Goggle Procedures (Undergraduate), Yokota AB, Japan  - Intro to Pacific Theater (Undergraduate), Yokota AB, Japan | |
| **Departmental  Service** | - Academic Advisor (Undergraduate): 2 students  - Thesis Chair, Aaron Webb (USAF Weapons School, best paper award)  - Thesis Chair, Jonathan Anthes (USAF Weapons School, best paper award)  - Thesis Chair, Jason Lehman (USAF Weapons School) | |