



**COLONEL  
Michael E. Thompson**

Colonel Michael E. Thompson is the Commander, 52d Operations Group, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. The group consists of one fighter squadron, an air control squadron, an operations support squadron, and an aviation detachment. The group's 487 personnel stand ready to support NATO and Combatant Command Authorities in the mission areas of suppression of enemy air defenses, close air support, air interdiction, and theater airspace control.



Colonel Thompson received his commission through the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1995. He is a career F-16 pilot with experience in Air Combat Command, Pacific Command, United States Air Forces Europe, and NATO. Colonel Thompson is a Senior Pilot with over 2,700 hours in the F-16, and extensive operational experience including combat in operations SOUTHERN WATCH, NORTHERN WATCH, ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, and over Libya.

Colonel Thompson has held various squadron and wing level positions during operational assignments to include Director of Staff, 8th Fighter Wing, Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea and Commander, 510th Fighter Squadron, and Chief of Safety, 31st Fighter Wing, Aviano Air Base, Italy. His staff tours include Aide-de-Camp to the Commander, United States Forces Korea and CENTCOM Branch Chief, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs, Washington, D.C.



# Change of Command

## The Air Force Song

*Off we go into the wild blue yonder,  
Climbing high into the sun;  
Here they come zooming to meet our thunder,  
At 'em boys, Give 'er the gun! (Give 'er the gun) Down we dive, spouting  
our flame from under,  
Off with one hell of a roar!  
We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!  
Nothing can stop the U.S. Air Force!*

# 480th Fighter Squadron

**First In Last Out**



**Spangdahlem AB, Germany  
15 January 2016**

# SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Presiding Officer

**Colonel Michael E. Thompson**

Commander, 52d Operations Group



*Opening Narration*

*Arrival of Official Party*

*Presentation of the Colors*

*National Anthems*

*Invocation*

*Introductions*

*Remarks by Presiding Officer*

*Remarks by Outgoing Commander*

*Last Salute*

*Remarks by Incoming Commander*

*First Salute*

*Air Force Song*

*Departure of Official Party*

## LIEUTENANT COLONEL

**Timothy B. Murphy**

Lieutenant Colonel Timothy B. Murphy is the Director of Operations for the 31st Operations Support Squadron, 31st Fighter Wing, Aviano Air Base, Italy. He oversees daily airfield operations at the only permanently assigned U.S. Air Force fighter aircraft wing in NATO's Southern Region. With approximately 4,200 active-duty military members, nearly 300 U.S. civilians and 600 Italian civilian employees, the wing conducts and supports air combat operations, and maintains munitions for NATO. The wing's mission is driven by two combat-ready F-16CM Fighting Falcon fighter squadrons and an air control squadron.

Lieutenant Colonel Murphy was commissioned in 2001 as a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. He completed undergraduate pilot training in 2003. Following pilot training, he served in a variety of operational assignments to include F-16 instructor pilot, flight examiner, mission commander, functional check pilot, and wing/squadron electronic combat pilot. Before arriving at Aviano AB, Lt. Col. Murphy was selected to serve in the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs' Afghanistan/Pakistan Hands Program. He spent four years focused exclusively on the region and serving as an advisor to the Afghan government on two separate deployments.

### EDUCATION

2001 Bachelor of Science in History, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado.  
2003 Euro/NATO Joint Pilot Training (ENJPT), Sheppard AFB, Texas.  
2008 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.  
2008 Masters of Art in International Relations, Troy University, Alabama.  
2012 Masters of Art in International Security Studies, CISA, National Defense University, Washington D.C.  
2013 Air War College (in correspondence), Maxwell AFB, Alabama.  
2014 Joint and Combined Warfighting School, Norfolk, Virginia.

### ASSIGNMENTS

1. December 2001 – February 2003, Student, ENJPT, Sheppard AFB, Texas.
2. June 2003 – March 2004, Student, F-16 Replacement Training Unit, Luke AFB, Arizona.
3. April 2004 – November 2006, Scheduler / Squadron ECP, Shaw AFB, South Carolina.
4. December 2006 – November 2007, Wing ECP / Flight Commander, Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea.
5. December 2007 – July 2010, Flight Commander / OGV, Luke AFB, Arizona.
6. July 2010 – July 2011, AFPAK Hand / Reintegration Officer, Kandahar/Zabul, Afghanistan.
7. July 2011 – May 2012, Student, College of International Security Affairs, National Defense Univ, D.C.
8. May 2012 – March 2013, Irregular Warfare (A3O-Q) Strategy Branch Chief, Pentagon, Virginia.
9. March 2013 – December 2013, Chief of Reintegration, Regional Command North, Afghanistan.
10. August 2014 – May 2015, Chief of Safety, 31 Fighter Wing, Aviano AB, Italy.
11. May 2015 – December 2015, Director of Operations, 31 Operations Support Squadron, Aviano AB, Italy.

### SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. July 2010 – July 2011, AFPAK Hand / Reintegration Officer, Kandahar/Zabul, Afghanistan.
2. March 2013 – December 2013, Chief of Reintegration, Regional Command North, Afghanistan.

### FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Senior pilot  
Flight hours: More than 1,500  
Aircraft flown: F-16, T-38 and T-37

### MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Bronze Star  
Defense Meritorious Service Medal  
Meritorious Service Medal  
Aerial Achievement Medal  
Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters  
Air Force Achievement Medal  
Combat Readiness Medal  
National Defense Service Medal  
Afghanistan Campaign Medal  
Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal  
Global War On Terrorism Service Medal  
NATO Medal

### EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant – May 30, 2001  
First Lieutenant – May 30, 2003  
Captain – May 30, 2005  
Major – January 1, 2011  
Lieutenant Colonel – February 1, 2015



## LIEUTENANT COLONEL

**David J. Berkland**

Lt Col Berkland is an F-16 flight examiner and the Commander of the 480th Fighter Squadron, 52d Operations Group, 52d Fighter Wing, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. The unit's 24 F-16 CJ aircraft and personnel stand ready to support NATO and combatant commanders with offensive and defensive counter-air combat airpower.

Lt Col Berkland entered the Air Force in 1998 as a graduate of Officer Training School. He holds a bachelor's degree in Government from Augustana College, Sioux Falls SD, and Master's degrees from American Military University and National Defense Intelligence College. Lt Col Berkland graduated from Euro- NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training in 1999 and the USAF Weapons Instructor Course in 2005, and is currently a senior pilot with more than 2,800 flying hours including over 500 combat hours. He has had numerous F-16 operations assignments, flew in Operations SOUTHERN and NORTHERN WATCH, NOBLE EAGLE and IRAQI FREEDOM, and instructed at the USAF Weapons School. Prior to his current assignment to Spangdahlem he served as the Air Staff Branch Chief of Air Superiority Weapons Requirements at the Pentagon, where he directed the Air Force's \$4.7 billion Air Superiority weapons portfolio and globally allocated all Air Force Air-to-Air weapons. His military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters and the Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters

### EDUCATION

1997 Bachelor of Arts, Government and International Affairs, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S  
2003 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, AL  
2005 USAF Weapons School, Nellis AFB, NV  
2007 Air Command and Staff College, correspondence  
2009 Master of Arts in Military Studies, American Military University, WV  
2011 Master of Science in Strategic Intelligence, National Defense Intelligence College, Washington, DC  
2012 Air War College, correspondence (outstanding graduate)

### ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 1998 – September 1999, student, Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training, Sheppard AFB, TX
2. February 1999 – September 2000, student, F-16 training, 309th FS, Luke AFB, TX
3. November 2000 – September 2003, Instructor Pilot, 78th FS, Shaw AFB, SC
4. September 2003 – December 2004, Flight Commander and Examiner, 35th FS, Kunsan AB, Korea
5. January 2005 – June 2005, student, USAF Weapons School, Nellis AFB, NV
6. June 2005 – January 2007, squadron Weapons Officer, 4th FS, Hill AFB, UT
7. January 2007 – September 2007, wing Weapons Officer, 388th Fighter Wing, Hill AFB, UT
8. September 2007 – July 2010, B-Flight Commander / Assistant Director of Operations, Flight Examiner / Instructor Pilot, 16th Weapons Squadron, USAF Weapons School, Nellis AFB NV
9. August 2010 – July 2011, student, National Defense Intelligence College, Bolling AFB, Washington, DC
10. July 2011 – October 2012, Branch Chief, Air Superiority Weapons Requirements, Headquarters Air Force Operations, Plans and Requirements, Pentagon, Washington, DC
11. October 2012 – October 2013, Director of Operations, 52d OSS, Spangdahlem AB, Germany
12. October 2013 – January 2014, Director of Operations, 480th FS, Spangdahlem AB, Germany
13. January 2014 – present, Commander, 480th FS, Spangdahlem AB, Germany

### FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Senior Pilot  
Flight Hours: 2800+  
Combat Hours: 500+  
Aircraft flown: T-37, T-38, AT-38, F-16

### MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters  
Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters  
Aerial Achievement Medal  
Air Force Commendation Medal (two oak leaf clusters)  
Iraq Campaign Medal (two bronze star devices)  
2005 USAF Chennault Award Winner

### EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant - 12 Jun 1998  
First Lieutenant - 12 Jun 2000  
Captain - 12 Jun 2002  
Major - 1 Mar 2008  
Lieutenant Colonel - 1 Jul 2013

