



MELISSA A. JOHNSON

Melissa A. Johnson, a member of the Senior Executive Service, is the Acquisition Executive, U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. Ms. Johnson is responsible for over 1,000-plus personnel providing rapid and focused acquisition, technology, and logistics support to Special Operations Forces. Ms. Johnson serves as the principal advisor to the Commander, United States Special Operations Command for Special Operations research and development, test, production, fielding, and sustainment of SOF-peculiar programs across aviation, space, cyber, maritime, ground, weapons and communication systems.

Ms. Johnson graduated from the University of Florida in 1995 and received her commission from the United States Air Force Officer Training School in March 1996. Throughout her 24 years on active duty, Ms. Johnson served in a variety of acquisition assignments and leadership roles. For her final active-duty assignment, she served as the Program Executive Officer for Fixed Wing Programs, Headquarters USSOCOM.

Prior to her position as the Acquisition Executive, Ms. Johnson served as the Deputy Director and Acting Director for the Department of the Air Force's Rapid Capabilities Office. She was responsible for leveraging streamlined acquisition methods for developing, acquiring and fielding critical capabilities, including the B-21 Raider and X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle, at the speed of emerging threats for combat Air and Space Forces and combatant command requirements. She was also responsible for technical integration of Department of Defense classified activities, and the representation of these activities to the Department of the Air Force, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Congress and the White House.



EDUCATION

- 1995 Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering, University of Florida, Gainesville
- 1998 Master of Science, Engineering Management, University of Dayton, Ohio
- 2001 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 2007 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2008 Air Force Legislative Fellow, Air University, Washington, D.C.
- 2013 Air War College Non-resident Program, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2016 Blue Horizons Fellowship, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

CAREER CHRONOLOGY

1. March 1996–August 1997, Aerodynamic Propulsion Analyst, National Air Intelligence Center, Wright–Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio
2. August 1997–March 1998, Special Projects Engineer, 28th Test Squadron, Eglin AFB, Fla.
3. March 1998–September 2000, Special Projects Program Manager, 28th Test Squadron, Eglin AFB, Fla.
4. October 2000–January 2002, Engineering Test Director, Air Force Research Laboratory, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
5. January 2002–June 2003, High Power Microwave Applications Program Manager, AFRL, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
6. June 2003–June 2004, Chief, Asymmetric Capabilities Development Branch, Rapid Capabilities Office, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Headquarters Air Force, Arlington, Va.
7. June 2004–June 2005, Executive Officer, Rapid Capabilities Office, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, HAF, Arlington, Va.
8. June 2005–July 2007, Chief, Offensive Capabilities Branch, Rapid Capabilities Office, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, HAF, Arlington, Va.
9. August 2007–January 2009, Air Force Legislative Fellow, Air University, Washington, D.C.
10. January 2009–August 2011, Director, Non-Standard Aircraft Systems, Program Executive Office for Fixed Wing Aircraft, Center for Special Operations Acquisitions and Logistics, Headquarters, U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, Fla.
11. August 2011–July 2015, Materiel Leader, Strategic Combat Systems, Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington, D.C.
12. July 2015–July 2016, Blue Horizons Fellow, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
13. August 2016–May 2017, Chief, Ground-Based Strategic Deterrent Integration, Intercontinental Ballistics Systems Division, Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, Hill AFB, Utah
14. June 2017–July 2020, Program Executive Officer, Fixed Wing, Special Operations Forces, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Headquarters, U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, Fla.
15. October 2020–October 2023, Deputy Director (Acting Director June 2022–June 2023), Department of the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office, Office of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling,

Washington, D.C.

16. October 2023–present, Acquisition Executive, Special Operations Forces Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, Fla.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Exceptional Civilian Service Medal

Defense Superior Service Medal

Defense Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster

Air and Space Commendation Medal

Air and Space Achievement Medal

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Program Management, Level III, Acquisition Professional Development Program

Test and Evaluation, Level II APDP

Systems Planning, Research, Development, and Engineering, Level II, APDP

(Current as of November 2023)

