

Randell Yi

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Profile

US Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, Senior Pilot, and Air Advisor experienced with leading diverse teams in complex environments involving aerial combat and foreign internal defense across the Middle East, Southwest Asia, and North Africa. Possesses a proven record of accomplishment in building alliances across diverse cultures and institutions both stateside and abroad. Consistent recognition by the Air Force, joint service, and coalition partners as a leader with exceptional ability to analyze, develop, and implement solutions to complex security challenges.

Education

Master of Arts

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN; May 2023

Master of Philosophy, Military Strategy

School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, AL; June 2021

Master of Military Operational Art and Science (Distinguished Graduate)

Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL; June 2020

Master of Arts, Military Studies/Strategic Leadership (w/Honors)

American Military University, Charles Town, WV; May 2014

Bachelor of Science, Aviation Flight/Management

Lewis University, Romeoville, IL; May 2007

Publications

“Go Big or Go Home? Right-Sizing Security Cooperation to Fragile States.” *Journal of Strategic Security* 15, no. 4 (2022): 32-50. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5038/1944-0472.15.4.2034>.

Invited review of Lewis, Jeffrey, *The 2020 Commission Report on the North Korean Nuclear Attacks against the United States*. H-War, H-Net Reviews. October 2019.

“The Iraqi Air Force C2ISR Enterprise” in *Assessment of the Iraqi Air Force, 2016-17*, a report commissioned by US Air Forces Central, submitted July 2017. Available on SIPRNET.

Technical Research & Writing: Published numerous USAF domain specific publications, evaluations, reports, and manuals. Conducted multiple invited presentations and training workshops pertaining to foreign military arms sales, command and control doctrine, and remotely piloted aircraft capabilities.

Professional Experience

United States Air Force Officer

2007 – Present

Student, University of Notre Dame

2021 – Present

Completed coursework, dissertation entitled *Making US Security Cooperation Work: Organizational Capital in Aid Provision* in progress. First journal article submitted for publication accepted by the *Journal for Strategic Security*.

May 2023

Student, School of Adv. Air and Space Studies (SAASS), Maxwell AFB, AL 2020 – 2021

SAASS is the most rigorous fully-accredited strategic studies program in the Department of Defense. Competitively selected from among current students to receive one of two fully funded scholarships through its Faculty Development PhD Program.

Student, Air Command & Staff College (ACSC), Maxwell AFB, AL 2019 – 2020

Competitively selected to attend the Air Force's mid-career officer development course. Curriculum subjects include the profession of arms, leadership and ethics, joint operations, airpower, and the international security environment. Distinguished Graduate, top 5% of 438 degree-eligible joint and international students.

Operational Test Project Manager & Division Chief, Creech AFB, NV 2016 – 2019

Directed 6 teams of engineers, analysts, pilots, & sensor operators for MQ-9 Reaper Remotely Piloted Aircraft system test & evaluation. Evaluated system hardware, software, weapons, and sensor modifications prior for effectiveness and suitability prior to combat fielding. Developed novel tactics, techniques, and procedures in conjunction with the US Navy to provide direct support to Carrier Strike Groups. Recognized as the unit-level Field Grade Officer of the Year.

Assistant Director of Operations & Air Advisor, Baghdad, Iraq 2017

Led a team of seven Advisors on 78 engagements with senior Iraqi Air Force and Ministry of Defense officials under combat conditions at six operating locations. Conducted a five-month field research project to evaluate Iraq's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations, command and control processes, and the effectiveness of State Department foreign military sales programs. Developed relationships with international coalition, interagency, and Iraqi partners to engineer Iraq's first successful air component command and control model. Jointly recognized by the Secretary of the Air Force, the US Air Force Chief of Staff, and the Combined Force Air Component Commander as a CENTCOM theater-level superior performer and awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service.

Chief of Standardization & Evaluation, Holloman AFB, NM 2015 – 2016

Oversaw the end-of-course competency evaluation and pilot certification program for 258 initial qualification training students at the Air Force's only MQ-1 Predator schoolhouse. Ensured aircrew possess the knowledge and skill consistent with the requirements of their assigned crew position as well as the ability to manage the risks of flight to act as an effective flight crew member. Earned recognition as the installation-level Remotely Piloted Aircraft Pilot of the Year.

Flight Commander & Instructor Pilot, Holloman AFB, NM 2014 – 2015

Responsible for the administrative oversight of 72 MQ-1 initial qualification training students annually. Led 16 officer & enlisted instructors in syllabus execution. Voted "Best Instructor" by three student classes.

Wing Self-Assessment Program Manager, Holloman AFB, NM 2013 – 2014

Authored the benchmark regulation for Air Combat Command's overhauled regulatory compliance inspection system. Trained and oversaw 189 inspectors across 17 readiness exercises and evaluations. Selected as the installation-level Company Grade Officer of the Year, team recognized as the top Inspector General program in Twelfth Air Force.

Instructor Pilot & Flight Safety Officer, Creech AFB, NV 2010 – 2013

Certified combat-ready aircrews and conducted over 800 hours of persistent armed reconnaissance over Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya. Integrated with conventional coalition and special operations forces to find, fix, and finish high value leaders in terrorist and insurgent networks.

Undergraduate Pilot Training & Combat Mission Readiness Training 2007 – 2010

Training & Professional Development

Academic: National Defense University Program for Emerging Leaders, Center for the Study of Weapons of Mass Destruction, Washington, DC, 2017; Squadron Officer School, 2013; Air and Space Basic Course, 2007.

Training: Air Advisor Academy, 2017; Defense Acquisition University Level I Certification, 2017; Air Combat Command Flight Safety Program Management Course, 2011; MQ-1 Predator Initial Qualification Training, 2011; Joint Firepower Course, 2010 (Distinguished Graduate); Undergraduate Pilot Training, 2010.

Awards

Major Decorations: Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal with eleven oak-leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation medal with one oak-leaf cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

Additional Recognition: Air Forces Central Combined Force Air Component Commander Superior Performer; Installation-level Company Grade Officer of the Year, Holloman AFB, NM; numerous other campaign ribbons, medals, and certificates of accomplishment

Hobbies & Interests

Family activities with one third-grade daughter, playing euphonium, trombone, and electric bass, weightlifting, reading, writing, and flying general aviation aircraft.

Volunteerism

Assistant Den Chief, Cub Scouts, 2019-Present
Deputy Commander for Cadets, Civil Air Patrol, 2013-2016
Assistant Scoutmaster & merit badge counsellor, Boy Scouts (Eagle), 2003-2007
Area IX Great Lakes Region Chief of Protocol, Arnold Air Society, 2004-2007