



# BIOGRAPHY



## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### MAJOR MARIA V. DOWNING

Maj Maria V. Downing is the Recruiting Officer, Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) Detachment 001, University of Alaska Anchorage, where she oversees the recruiting, educating and commissioning of officer candidates. She administers the Professional Military Training program for ROTC cadets, while also serving as an Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies within the university.

Maj Downing earned her commission in Aug 2008 through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps upon graduating from University of Alaska Anchorage. She has served in a variety of positions at the Squadron, Group, Wing, and Joint Combatant Command Levels. Major Downing was the Current Operations Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Lead Planner, Alaskan Command J33, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, when she ensured vital, persistent national imagery and Naval P-8 support for the POTUS directed recovery of the downed Alaskan High-altitude balloon.



Maj Downing deployed two times including serving as the J23 Deputy for Security Assistance Group – Ukraine where she led a 25-man team in detailed tactical and operational intelligence analysis and coordinated closely with over 100 foreign disclosure officers, intelligence agencies and Air Operations Centers to support operations for a multi-national headquarter. Prior to her current position, she was the Alaskan Command Deputy J7 and Chief of Joint Exercises at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, where she led the planning for two premier Joint exercises that directly supported and informed National and DoD Arctic Strategies and where she led 200 Joint, allied, and service planners across three Combatant Commands for operational and exercise integration in the austere arctic regions of Alaska.

### EDUCATION

- 2008 Bachelor of Science, Biological Sciences, University of Alaska Anchorage.
- 2008 Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 2009 Air Force Intelligence Officer Training Course, Goodfellow AFB, Tx.
- 2015 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2016 Master, Intelligence Studies, American Military University, WV.
- 2020 Leadership Development Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2020 Innovation Acceleration Program, Ross School of Business, University of Michigan.
- 2021 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence.

### ASSIGNMENTS

1. January 2010 – August 2011, Intelligence Analyst, 97th Operations Group, Altus AFB, Okla.
- September 2011 – December 2012, Flight Commander Wing Operations Intelligence, 97th Operations Group, Altus AFB, Okla.
2. January 2013 – August 2014, Deputy Flight Chief, Lead Instructor Information Integration Course, Flight Commander Information Operations Flight, 39th Information Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
3. September 2015 – November 2016, Mission Operations Commander, 11th Special Operations Intelligence Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
4. December 2016 – January 2020, Squadron Officer School Instructor/Flight Commander, Faculty Development Branch Chief, Assistant Director of Operations, Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
5. February 2020 – December 2020, Branch Chief, Joint ISR Operations, Deputy Chief, DDO, Lemay Doctrine/ED Center, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
6. January 2021 – June 2023, Current Operation, ISR Planner, Current Operations Chief, ALCOM J33, AFELM US NORTHCOM, Joint Base Elmendorf-Fort Richardson, Alaska.
7. July 2023 – July 2024, Alaska NORAD and Alaskan Command Deputy J7 and Chief of Joint Exercises J71, AFELM US NORTHCOM, Joint Base Elmendorf-Fort Richardson, Alaska.
8. July 2024-Present, Recruiting Officer, Air Force ROTC Detachment 001, University of Alaska Anchorage.

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal

Air and Space Commendation Medal second oak clusters

Joint Service Achievement Medal

## **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant Aug 19, 2008

First Lieutenant Aug 1, 2010

Captain Aug 1, 2012

Major Aug 1, 2018

(Current as of August 2024)