

Colonel Robert Paul “Slew” Vicars IV, PhD, USAF
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OBJECTIVE

Research, write, and dialogue on American military strategy, as well as defense and military policy. Advise U.S. political and military leaders on national security matters. Help businesses in the aviation training industry better meet the needs of clients and customers.

BRIEF QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY

Air Force “intrapreneur” with a variety of academic, flying, and leadership experiences. Led the Air Force’s premier pilot training innovation program, Pilot Training Next, in Austin, TX. USAF undergraduate pilot training T-38 squadron commander training hundreds of students to fighter pilots. Has earned a PhD and three Masters’ degrees in Political Science, Strategy, Operational Art, and Theology. Has flown over 1900 hours primarily in the F-16 and T-38. Aviation qualifications include the Instructor, Evaluator, Forward Air Controller-Airborne, and Mission Commander. Non-flying experience includes Joint Staff service in the USPACOM HQ Command section, as well as U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, School of Advanced Military Studies, Air War College.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Just War Theory, Ethics of Killing in War, Unmanned Technology, Political Philosophy, International Relations, Military Strategy, Organizational Change and Innovation, Leadership

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Air War College Department of International Security Studies, Maxwell AFB, AL, 2022-Present

Developed and taught curriculum for the Air War College with direct impact on a wide variety of interagency and international entities through educating the diverse student body.

PhD Student, Air War College Fellowship, Baylor University, Waco TX, 2019-2022

Studied International Relations and Political Philosophy. Dissertation title: Combatant Moral Equality in Historical and Practical Context.

Program Lead, Pilot Training Next, Austin-Bergstrom Airport TX, 2017-2019

Led the Air Education and Training Command’s largest innovation project to integrate new and emerging technologies into the Air Force’s pilot training enterprise. Led team of military, civilian, government and industry partners to build a high-priority innovation effort from ground up.

Division Chief, Strategy and Future Concepts, LeMay Center, Maxwell AFB, AL 2017

Provided subject-matter expertise on airpower strategy, development and assessment to U.S. Air Force and other Department of Defense agencies. Led Air Force concept development for Air University across academia/industry experts. Advised commander on analysis frameworks, concepts, and strategic insights to tackle Air Force critical challenges. Collaborated with DoD and civilian partners to integrate strategic thinking across Air University and LeMay Center mission areas.

Student, Air War College, 2016-2017

#1/208 students academically with 3.98 GPA.

Commander, 25th Flying Training Squadron, Vance AFB, OK, 2014-2016

Led all facets of UPT phase III mission in the T-38C. Supervised, mentored and rated over 35 officer and enlisted personnel. Provided highest-quality graduates to the combat, mobility, and special operations forces, as well as to Guard, Reserve, and allied air forces.

Director of Operations, 25th Flying Training Squadron, Vance AFB, OK, 2014

Led execution of UPT phase III mission in the T-38C graduating approximately 100 new pilots per year. Supervised over 30 instructors and enlisted support staff in the daily execution of up to sixty sorties. Managed all processes from programming to standards and evaluations in support of mission accomplishment.

Student, Army School of Advanced Military Studies, 2012-2013

#2/12 students in seminar and 4.0 GPA.

Student, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, 2011-2012

#15/1060, Top 5% academically with 4.0 GPA.

Aide-de-Camp / Deputy Executive Assistant to the Deputy Commander USPACOM, Camp H.M. Smith, HI, 2009-2011

Directly supported Commander and Deputy during 2x DPRK provocations and humanitarian response to Japanese tsunami. Managed and executed the Deputy's daily calendar. Reviewed and edited all correspondence. Planned and executed multiple trips for the Deputy throughout the U.S. and Pacific Theater.

Executive Officer, 12 OG, Randolph AFB, TX, 2009

Managed all correspondence and administrative detail for the Group commander. Flight evaluator for the 435th Fighter Training Squadron (IFF).

Standards and Evaluations T-38C (IFF) Branch Chief, 12 OG, Randolph AFB, TX, 2008-2009.

Managed the Supervisor of Flying program for 2 operational runways, 2 control towers, 5 squadrons, 4 airframes, and 68 personnel. Constructed digital checklist and operational risk management process.

Chief, Standards and Evaluations, 435th Fighter Training Squadron, Randolph AFB, TX, 2008

Awarded 3x "Outstanding," duty checklist recognized as "Model Program" and overall "Excellent" in 19th AF Evaluation. Recognized as "Superior Performer."

Chief of Safety, 435th Fighter Training Squadron, Randolph AFB, TX, 2007-2008
Instructor for first-ever class of F-22 students.

Assistant Chief of Scheduling, 435th Fighter Training Squadron, Randolph AFB, TX, 2006-2007

Flight Commander, 18th Fighter Squadron, Eielson AFB, AK, 2006
Qualified Forward Air Controller-Airborne, Squadron Supervisor, and Group Supervisor of Flying duties. Wing Flight Lead of the Quarter.

F-16 Pilot, 18th Fighter Squadron, Eielson AFB, AK, 2006
OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM Individual Augmentee to Combined Forces Command, OPERATION NOBLE EAGLE over Guam, Exercises AIR WARRIOR, COMMANDO SLING, and multiple RED FLAG-ALASKA (COPE THUNDER). Hosted new PACAF Director of Operations on base tour. Assistant Chief of Weapons and Daily Scheduler.

F-16 Pilot, 36th Fighter Squadron, Osan AB, ROK 2002
Weapons Tracking Officer, "Superior Performer" in readiness inspection "Outstanding," Wingman of the Year

Intelligence Applications Apprentice, Elmendorf AFB, AK 1995-1996
Ran aircrew annual intelligence program, assisted in mission planning and debrief requirements. Deployed to Korea, and in support of OPERATION DENY FLIGHT/DECISIVE ENDEAVOUR

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Political Science, Baylor University, 2022
Master of Strategic Studies, U.S. Air War College, 2017
Master of Military Arts and Sciences, School of Advanced Military Studies, 2013
Master of Arts in Theological Studies, Liberty University, 2008
Bachelor of Science in Professional Aeronautics, Embry-Riddle University, 1999

HONORS AND AWARDS

Stormie Schott Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Baylor University, 2022
Highest Academic Distinction and Top Academic Graduate, 2017, MSS, Air War College
Cum Laude, 2008, MA, Liberty University
Summa Cum Laude, 1999, BA, Embry-Riddle University

WORKING/UNPUBLISHED PAPERS

None Presently

BOOK REVIEWS ONLINE

Brunstetter, Daniel. *Just and Unjust Uses of Limited Force*. Oxford University Press, 2021. Published online at <https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2022/4/5/reviewing-just-and-unjust-uses-of-limited-force>

- Renic, Niel C. *Asymmetric Killing*. Oxford University Press, 2020. Published online at <https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2021/6/25/reviewing-asymmetric-killing>
- Dubik, James M. *Just War Reconsidered: Strategy, Ethics, and Theory*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2016. Published online at <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=50336>
- Patterson, Eric. *Ethics Beyond War's End*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2012. Published online at http://www.au.af.mil/au/afri/review_full.asp?id=875
- Johnson, James Turner. *Ethics and the Use of Force: Just War in Historical Perspective*. Farnham, Surrey, England: Ashgate, 2011. Published online at http://www.au.af.mil/au/afri/review_full.asp?id=596

ARTICLES PUBLISHED ONLINE

- Vicars IV, Robert P. "In Defense of the Just War Tradition: A Critique of the Just War Revisionism of Jeff McMahan." *The Strategy Bridge*. 24 Oct 2017. <https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2017/10/24/in-defense-of-the-just-war-tradition-a-critique-of-the-just-war-revisionism-of-jeff-mcmahan>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND PARTICIPATION

- "Patriotism Ancient and Modern," Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of Western Civilization, Fruitland, OH, June 11-13, 2021.
- "Pilot Training Next: A Path to Next Gen Learning," Air Refueling Systems Advisory Group Annual Conference, Charlotte, NC, April 10, 2019.
- "Innovation and Learning," Learning Professionals Symposium, Randolph Air Force Base, TX, February 26, 2019.
- "Pilot Training Next: A Path to Next Gen Learning," Military Flying Training Conference, San Antonio, TX, December 6, 2018.
- "Pilot Training Next: A Path to Next Gen Learning," Royal Air Force Central Flying School Biennial International Flying Training Conference, RAF Cranwell, UK, July 17, 2018.
- "Pilot Training Next: A Path to Next Gen Learning," International Military Flying Training Conference, London, England, March 27, 2018.
- "Hap Arnold Lecture Series on Leading and Serving in Changing Times," Auburn University-Montgomery, Montgomery, Alabama, April 12, 2017.
- "Hap Arnold Lecture Series on Leading and Serving in Changing Times," Huntingdon College, Montgomery, Alabama, March 22, 2017.

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

- August 2009 – June 2011, Aide-de-Camp and Deputy Executive Assistant to the Deputy Commander USPACOM, Camp H.M. Smith, HI

MILITARY EDUCATION

- Pilot Training, Sheppard AFB, TX, 2000
F-16 RTU, Luke AFB, FL, 2001
Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, AL, 2005
Joint Firepower Course, Nellis AFB, NV, 2005
Forward Air Control-Airborne Training, Luke AFB, AZ, 2005

Upgrade Instructor Course (IFF), Moody AFB, GA, 2006
Command and General Staff College (CGSC), Fort Leavenworth, KS, 2012
School of Advanced Military Studies, Fort Leavenworth, KS, 2013
Instructor Course for Undergraduate Pilot Training, Randolph AFB, TX, 2013
Air War College, Maxwell AFB, AL, 2017

MILITARY AWARDS

Distinguished Graduate, ROTC, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, 1999
36th Fighter Squadron, Wingman of the Year, 2002
SOS, Top Third Grad, Chief of Staff Trophy, 2005
Command and General Staff College, top 5%, 2012
Air War College, Top Academic Graduate, 2017

DECORATIONS

Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal (2 devices)
Joint Service Commendation Medal
Commendation Medal
Achievement Medal (2 devices)

FLYING SUMMARY

Rating: Command Pilot, F-16, T-38C (IFF)
Flight Hours: More than 1900
Aircraft Flown: T-37, T-6, T-1, T-38A/B/C/IFF, F-16C