



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE

MAJOR SEAN R. KELLY

Maj Sean R. Kelly is currently studying Political Science at Sogang University in Seoul, South Korea as part of the Olmsted Foundation Scholarship. His academic focus is on game theory and international conflicts.

Maj Kelly received his commission from the Reserve Officer Training Commissioning Program at the University of Pittsburgh in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. He began his career at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH where he produced scientific and technical intelligence at NASIC and went on to oversee and maintain all launch infrastructure at Vandenberg SFB, CA as the Mission Support Lead for nine Atlas V and Delta IV rocket launches. Maj Kelly was then selected as the Launch Mission Manager for the Delta IV Heavy NROL-71 mission, earning the Most Valuable Player award for the historic campaign. He has deployed as an Acquisitions Air Advisor to the Iraqi Air Staff and as the Wing Executive Officer for the 332d Air Expeditionary Wing. Maj Kelly received his master's degree in Space Systems Engineering at AFIT, where his thesis proposed a CubeSat reference architecture that became the standard for future AFIT CubeSats. Prior to this assignment, he was an Operational Test Lead at AFOTEC, testing the VC-25B, T-7, and KC-46.



EDUCATION

2012 Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
2015 Air Advisor Academy, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey
2018 Distinguished Graduate, Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
2021 Master of Science in Space Systems Engineering, AFIT, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
2022 Test Pilot School – Space Test, Edwards AFB, California
2023 Air Command and Staff College (by correspondence)
2023 Defense Language Institute - Korean, Washington DC

ASSIGNMENTS

1. September 2012 – October 2014, Airborne Radar Analyst, National Air and Space Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio
2. October 2014 – March 2016, Training Systems Engineer, Simulators Division Special Program Office, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
(Deployed August 2015 – February 2016, Air Advisor and Group Executive Officer, 370 Air Expeditionary Advisory Group, Forward Operating Base Union III, Baghdad, Iraq)
3. March 2016 – February 2018, Chief of Systems, Infrastructure, and Facilities Engineering, 4th Space Launch Squadron, Vandenberg AFB, California
(Deployed July 2017 – February 2018, Wing Executive Officer, 332 Air Expeditionary Wing, Undisclosed Location, SE Asia)
4. February 2018 – January 2019, NROL-71 Launch Mission Manager, 4th Space Launch Squadron, Vandenberg Space Force Base, California





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5. January 2019 – August 2019, Flight Commander, Mission Support Flight, 4th Space Launch Squadron, Vandenberg SFB, California
6. August 2019 – March 2021, Graduate Student, Space Systems Engineering, Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
7. April 2021 – June 2022, Operational Test Engineer, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center Detachment 5, Edwards AFB, California
8. June 2022 – June 2023, Olmsted Scholar, Defense Language Institute-East, Washington D.C.
9. July 2023 – Present, Olmsted Scholar, Sogang University, Seoul, South Korea

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster
Air and Space Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster
Air and Space Achievement Medal
Meritorious Unit Award with one oak leaf cluster
Operation Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2016 Air Force Space Command Launch Maintainer of the Year
2017 General Charles A. Horner "Tiger" Award, 14 AF
2018 Outstanding Contributor, Squadron Officer School
2019 General Charles A. Horner "Tiger" Award, 14 AF
2021 Systems Engineering Award, USAF

PUBLICATIONS

"A Reference Architecture for Rapid CubeSat Development," Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, 2021
"Using a CubeSat Reference Architecture for Accelerated Model Development and Analysis," Journal of Small Satellites, Vol. 10, No. 3, pp. 1097-1108, Oct 2021

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 12, 2012
First Lieutenant July 14, 2014
Captain July 14, 2016
Major Sep 1, 2021

(Current as of October 2024)

