



# BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

## COLONEL JOHN G. THIEN

Colonel John "P.Y." Thien is currently assigned as the Commander, Space Delta 3, Headquarters United States Space Force, Peterson AFB, Colorado. He commands the newly activated Space Electronic Warfare Delta with personnel deployed worldwide. Space Delta 3 is responsible for preparing and presenting assigned and attached forces for the purpose of executing electronic attack, electronic protection and electronic warfare support in, from and through space. The units falling under his command within Space Delta 3 are the 4th, 5th and 16th Space Control Squadron and the 721st Operations Support Squadron. Col. Thien is the first commander of Space Delta 3.

After entering the Air Force in 1998, as a graduate of AFROTC from the University of Missouri-Rolla, Col Thien was assigned to the 490th Missile Squadron, Malmstrom AFB, Montana. While there, he also served in the 341st Operations Support Squadron as an instructor and the 341st Operations Group as the senior evaluator. Following the 341st SW, Col Thien was selected for the Air Force Weapons Instructor Course at Nellis AFB, Nevada. Upon graduation, he was assigned as the first Space Weapons Officer at the 4th Space Control Squadron working as the Weapons and Tactics Flight Commander. Next, Col Thien returned to the weapons school as an instructor at the 328th Weapons Squadron. Following his instructor duty, he was assigned to Headquarters Air Force Space Command as Chief of Advanced Concepts and selected to attend Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. Following graduation, Col Thien was selected as Operations Officer of the 4th Space Control Squadron at Holloman AFB, New Mexico. Next, Col Thien commanded the 25th Space Range Squadron located at Schriever AFB, CO. Post command, he served as the 21st Deputy Operations Group Commander, Peterson AFB, CO and was then selected to attend the Air War College at Maxwell AFB, Alabama.



Col Thien has deployed to Al Udeid AB, Qatar as the Commander for Operation Silent Sentry; Camp Victory, Iraq as the non-kinetics effects planner supporting the United States Forces-Iraq Air Component Coordination Element; Bagram AB, Afghanistan as the Commander of the 1st Expeditionary Space Control Squadron; Al Udeid AB, Qatar as the Commander of the 17th Expeditionary Space Control Squadron. He and his wife Stephanie have two children: John and Matthew.

## **EDUCATION**

- 1998 Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering, University of Missouri-Rolla
- 1998 Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2003 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2003 United States Air Force Weapons School, Nellis AFB, Nev.
- 2010 Master of Science, Aerospace Science, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Fla.
- 2012 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala. 2019 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. June 1999 – April 2000, Minuteman III launch officer 490th Missile Squadron, 341st Operations Group, 341st Space Wing, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.
2. May 2000 – May 2001 instructor 341st Operations Support Squadron, 341st Operations Group, 341st Space Wing, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.
3. June 2001 – December 2003, senior evaluator 341st Operations Group, 341st Space Wing, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.
4. January 2004 – September 2006, Flight Commander Weapons and Tactics, 4th Space Control Squadron, Holloman AFB, N.M.
5. October 2006 – February 2007, Instructor, 328th Weapons Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nev.
6. February 2007 – May 2009, Flight Commander of Mission Operations and ADO of Weapons and Tactics, 328th Weapons Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nev.
7. June 2009 – June 2011, Chief, Advanced Concepts, Headquarters Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, Colo.
8. July 2011 – May 2012, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
9. June 2012 – June 2014, Operations Officer, 4th Space Control Squadron, Holloman AFB, N.M.
10. June 2014 – July 2016, Commander, 25th Space Range Squadron, Schriever AFB, Colo.
11. July 2016 – July 2018, Deputy Operations Group Commander, 21st Operations Group, Peterson AFB, Colo.
12. July 2018 – October 2019, Student, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
13. October 2019 – Present, Commander, 721st Operations Group, Peterson AFB, Colo.

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Meritorious Service Medal (with 4 oak leaf clusters)

Air Force Commendation Medal (with 1 oak leaf cluster) Air Force Achievement Medal (with 1 oak leaf cluster)

## **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant May 27, 1998

First Lieutenant May 27, 2000

Captain May 27, 2002

Major February 1, 2008

Lieutenant Colonel June 1, 2013

Colonel August 1, 2019

(Current as of October 2019)

