

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Arrival of the Official Party
National Anthem
Invocation
Remarks

Colonel Nancy E. Taylor

Lieutenant Colonel Stephen N. Linhardt

Change of Command Ceremony
Remarks

Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan L. Clason

Air Force Song

Departure of the Official Party

SQUADRON HISTORY

The 557th Flying Training Squadron traces its heritage back to the 557th Bombardment Squadron, first activated in December 1942 with the mission to train on the B-26 Marauder. In 1943, the Squadron began combat operations in the European Theater, culminating in over 1,000 combat sorties without a single loss of aircraft. In 1965, the 557th Tactical Fighter Squadron was reactivated and flew F-4C Phantom IIs. From 1965-1970, the 557 TFS flew close air support and interdiction missions in Vietnam.

Starting in 1974, the 557th Flying Training Squadron has operated out of the United States Air Force Academy, flying the T-41, T-51, and T-53 with the mission to motivate, train and inspire cadets to become exceptional combat aviators. Additionally, the USAFA Flying Team is part of the 557 FTS and recently marked their 30th consecutive National Intercollegiate Flying Association Regional Championship victory!

Lt Col Stephen N. Linhardt leaves a legacy on the Squadron. As he passes the guidon, Lt Col Jonathan L. Clason takes the helm, ready to continue shaping and inspiring the next generation of Air Force Cadets.

CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

Throughout military history, the orderly transfer of responsibility and authority from one commander to another has been an important tradition carried out in both war and peace. The organization flag, or guidon, symbolizes this authority of command during the Change of Command Ceremony. Outgoing commander, Lt Col Linhardt, relinquishes the guidon to the Group commander, Col Taylor, who then passes the guidon to the new Commander, Lt Col Clason. This age-old tradition is an important part of our military heritage and ensures a single command authority at all times.

AIR FORCE SONG

Off we go into the wild blue yonder,

Climbing high into the sun;

*Here they come zooming to meet our
thunder,*

At 'em now, Give 'em the gun!

*Down we dive, spouting our flame
from under,*

Off with one helluva roar!

We live in fame or go down in flame.

Hey!

Nothing'll stop the U. S. Air Force!

557TH

FLYING TRAINING

SQUADRON

Change of Command Ceremony



**Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan L.
Clason**

Assumes Command from

**Lieutenant Colonel Stephen N.
Linhardt**

06 June 2025

USAF Academy, Colorado

COLONEL
NANCY E. TAYLOR

Colonel Nancy E. Taylor is the Commander of the 306th Flying Training Group, 12th Flying Training Wing, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado. The 306th Flying Training Group provides soaring, parachuting, and powered flight as character building operations focused on enhancing the airmanship and leadership of USAFA and Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets. The Group also provides flight training for all Air Force officers scheduled to enter Pilot and Remotely Piloted Aircraft training. On an annual basis, the 306th Flying Training Group trains more than 4,000 cadets and officers while operating the USAF's busiest visual flight rules airfield operated only during daylight hours.

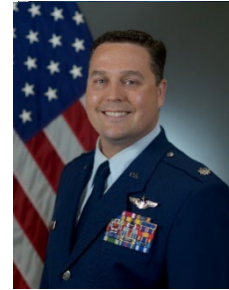


Col Taylor received her commission in 2001 after graduating from the United States Air Force Academy. She completed Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training in 2002 and has held a variety of key leadership positions at the squadron and group level. Col Taylor served as Joint Event Planner and Deputy Desk Officer for Pacific Command, Joint Staff J7, Suffolk, Virginia, the 61st Airlift Squadron Director of Operations and the Commander, 714th Training Squadron, Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas. Prior to her current assignment, Col Taylor was the Chief, Operational Imperative Integration Division, Plans and Programs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Arlington, Virginia.

Col Taylor is a Command Pilot with over 4,100 hours in the T-1A, C-130E/H, C-130J, and the T-53A.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL
STEPHEN N. "Scuba" LINHARDT

Lt Col Stephen "Scuba" Linhardt is the Commander of the 557th Flying Training Squadron, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado. He leads the 557th and is responsible for the safe execution of the 557th's mission and leadership of its members.



Lt Col Linhardt received his commission from the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Kansas in May 2007. He completed Undergraduate Pilot Training in April 2009 and has served in several capacities, including Flight Commander, Assistant Director of Operations, and Director of Operations at the squadron level.

He is a senior pilot with more than 3900 flying hours and has held Aircraft Commander and Instructor Pilot ratings in the PC-12, U-28A, T-1A, T-53A, and T-41D aircraft. Lt Col Linhardt has deployed in support of several operations including, Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, FREEDOM'S SENTINEL, INHERENT RESOLVE, and other contingency operations. He has successfully flown over 360 combat sorties totaling more than 1,900 combat flight hours.

Prior to his current assignment, Lt Col Linhardt served as the Executive Officer to the Commander, Nineteenth Air Force. In this role, he served as the chief interface between the 2-Star Commander and senior leadership of the subordinate wings and Airmen of the Numbered Air Force as well as Air Force Higher Headquarters and U.S. elected officials.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL
JONATHAN L. "Peso" CLASON

Lt Col Jonathan "Peso" Clason serves as the Director of Operations in the 557th Flying Training Squadron, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado. He directs, oversees, and coordinates all flight operations, scheduling, and training for 81 instructor pilots from 8 separate organizations to enable both the cadet Powered Flight Program and the intercollegiate Academy Precision Flying Team. Lt Col Clason is responsible for 10,500 flight hours, three separate aircraft platforms, and six syllabi which facilitate the training of over 650 cadets annually.



Lt Col Clason received his commission as a distinguished graduate from the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Oklahoma in May 2008. Following commission, he attended Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma. He has served as a T-6A First Assignment Instructor Pilot, C-17A Aircraft Commander, and T-6A Pilot Instructor Trainer and Evaluator Pilot, earning his master instructor badge. His deployments include an Air Liaison Officer tour in Kabul, Afghanistan supporting Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and C-17A combat flight operations supporting Operation FREEDOM SENTINEL.

Prior to his current assignment, Lt Col Clason served as the Lead Planner in the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff of the Air Force's Strategic Execution Group, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Arlington, Virginia.