**CAPTAIN RUSSELL MARKOSKY**

Capt Russell Markosky is an AC-130J Pilot and Chief of Current Operations at the 16th Special Operations Squadron, Cannon Air Force Base, NM. As a pilot, Capt Markosky commands a 9-member crew and $185M AC-130J aircraft which performs unconventional and high-risk missions in denied environments, supporting conventional and unconventional forces. As Chief of Current Operations, he develops, manages, and executes the squadron’s $85M flying hour program, central to the 159-person unit’s force generation training plan.

Capt Markosky entered the Air Force in May 2016 through ROTC from Carnegie Mellon University. He completed Acquisitions Management Training in September 2016, and served as a 62E3G, Lead F-16 Landing Gear Engineer until January 2019 at Hill AFB, UT. He then began his flying career, attending Undergraduate Pilot Training and Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training at Laughlin AFB, TX, Sheppard AFB, TX, and Vance AFB, OK. He graduated from Undergraduate Pilot Training from Vance AFB, OK in May 2021. Capt Markosky then completed AC-130J Copilot Mission Qualification at Hurlburt Field, FL in June 2022. Prior to his current position, Capt Markosky served as a flight commander at the 43d Intelligence Squadron, Cannon AFB, NM.

As an engineer, Capt Markosky qualified as an Aircraft Battle Damage and Repair Engineer (ABDRE) and served as a subject matter expert on multiple Safety Investigation Boards for a variety of F-16 mishaps. He deployed as an AC-130J Copilot to Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait, during Operation Inherent Resolve from March – October 2024, flying over 330 combat hours during 47 combat sorties.

EDUCATION

2016 Bachelor of Science, Civil Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

2016 Fundamentals of Acquisition Management, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

2023 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Alabama

ASSIGNMENTS

1. July 2016 – January 2018, F-16 Lead Landing Gear Engineer, 417 Supply Chain Management Squadron, Hill AFB, Utah
2. January 2019 – October 2019, Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Laughlin, AFB, Texas
3. October 2019 – October 2020, Student, Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training, Sheppard AFB, Texas
4. October 2020 – May 2021, Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Vance AFB, Oklahoma
5. May 2021 – September 2022, Student Copilot, 492 Special Operations Training Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Florida
6. September 2022 – October 2024, Copilot/Flight Commander, 16 Special Operations Squadron (March 2024 – October 2024, Copilot, Special Operations Task Unit 016, Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait)
7. October 2024 – Present – Pilot/Chief of Current Operations, 16 Special Operations Squadron

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Pilot

Flight hours: 1,047

Aircraft flown: T-6, T-38, T-1, AC-130J

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Air Medal, 2 “C” devices, one oak leaf cluster

Air and Space Commendation Medal

Air and Space Achievement Medal

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2021 Distinguished Graduate, Undergraduate Pilot Training

2021 AETC Commander’s Trophy, Undergraduate Pilot Training

2021 Flying Training Award, Undergraduate Pilot Training

OCCUPATIONAL BADGES

2016 Air Force Acquisition Badge

2021 Air Force Pilot Wings

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 14, 2016

First Lieutenant June 1, 2018

Captain June 1, 2020

(Current as of April 2025)