



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

MAJOR JOHN D. SMITH

Major John D. Smith is the Department of Defense (DoD) Office of Military Commissions (OMC) Judge Advocate (JAG) spokesman. He is responsible for briefing national and international media on all legal matters relating to Military Commissions, as well as educating the public on the Military Commission process. His duties also include advising the DoD General Counsel on legal issues and the media.

Major Smith entered the Air Force in 1992 as a second lieutenant after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy as the Outstanding Cadet in Legal Studies. He was the Distinguished Honor Graduate of his 1992 Defense Information School class, and served as the Deputy Chief of Public Affairs, Langley AFB, VA, and the Chief of Public Affairs, 388th Fighter Wing, Hill AFB, UT.

In 1996 he was selected for the Funded Legal Education Program and attended law school at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA. While there, he served as Magistrate of the Phi Delta Phi Legal Honor Society and as his class representative to the Student Bar Association. Major Smith was an editor and published an article on Military Justice in his law school magazine, *Juris*, which was selected by the American Bar Association as the best law school magazine in the country. In 1999 he graduated ranked 1st in his law school class and earned his Juris Doctorate Degree Magna Cum Laude. During law school, Major Smith interned for three months at both the 1st Fighter Wing Legal Office and HQ ACC/JA at Langley AFB, VA. Major Smith was the 2002 Air Combat Command Kuhfeld Award Nominee for the Outstanding Judge Advocate in the Air Force.

Major Smith deployed to Croatia in 1993 as the Chief of Public Affairs, Joint Task Force PROVIDE PROMISE (Forward), and also to Jordan as the Chief of Public Affairs, CORONET CAMEL. In 2002 he deployed as the Staff Judge Advocate for the 384th Air Expeditionary Wing (classified location) in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM. Prior to his current assignment, Major Smith was the Chief of Military Justice and the Chief of Civilian Matters at Randolph AFB, TX, and the Chief of Operations Law at Nellis AFB, NV. He is a native of Pittsburgh, PA.

EDUCATION:

- 1992 Bachelor of Science, Legal Studies, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO
- 1999 Juris Doctorate, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2000 Squadron Officers School, Maxwell AFB, AL

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. July 1992 – November 1995, Deputy Chief and Public Affairs Officer, Langley AFB, VA
2. November 1995 – August 1996, Chief of Public Affairs, 388th Fighter Wing, Hill AFB, UT
3. August 1996 – July 1999, Student, Funded Legal Education Program, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA
4. July 1999 -- July 2001, Chief of Military Justice and Civilian Matters, Randolph AFB, TX
5. July 2001 – March 2003, Chief of Operations Law, Nellis AFB, NV
6. March 2003 – Present, Office of Military Commissions Judge Advocate Spokesman

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Air Force Commendation Medal with one device
Joint Service Achievement Medal
Air Force Achievement Medal with one device
National Defense Service Medal with one device
Armed Forces Service Medal
NATO Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant	May 27, 1992
First Lieutenant	May 27, 1994
Captain	May 27, 1996
Major	Nov 1, 2002

(Current as of May 2003)