



# BIOGRAPHY

## AIR FORCE EXPLORERS

### LT COL THOMAS H. BLOCK

Lt Colonel Thomas H. Block is Vice Commander, Air Force Explorers, Phoenix, Arizona, and serves in a dual role as the U.S. Military Explorers. The Group is the organization that oversees Military and Air Force Explorer units throughout the U.S. that prepares young adults as U.S. Air Force & Military Officers and Enlisted members. Specialty training includes including Airmanship, Special Tactics, and Air Intelligence as well as other training fields for young adults. The organization started with the establishment of the 396<sup>th</sup> Aircrew Training Squadron, Phoenix, Arizona in March of 1999.

He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1967 as an Inventory Management Specialist at Patrick AFB, FL, had volunteered for duty in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War, and was assigned to Udorn RTAFB, Thailand, and then later to Grand Forks AFB, ND. In 1970, he was assigned to Charleston AFB, SC as a C-141A Aircraft Loadmaster. In 1973 he was reassigned to Peterson AFB, CO, where he served as a HQ Air Defense Command FTS / Loadmaster Instructor and Flight Examiner on C-118, C-131 and T-29 Aircraft. He was part of the Initial cadre that established Peterson AFB's first operational Air Freight / USAF Log Air Station (which was awarded "Air Force's LOGAIR Air Force Station of the Year for two consecutive years), and served as its Training NCO until his Honorable Discharge in 1975.



In 1981 he re-enlisted in US Air Force Reserves at McChord AFB, WA. He completed C-141B Loadmaster Training at Altus AFB, OK and received recognition as a Distinguished Graduate, was upgraded to Aircraft Loadmaster in five missions after being out the aircraft over eight years. He was reassigned to Norton AFB, CA in 1988 and was mobilized and activated for Desert Shield / Desert Storm and was the Wing's initial cadre of Aircrew during both operations. He was also part of the Wing's review team of its IT Systems in preparing for a UEI. In 1992, the Wing transferred its operation to March AFB, CA, and he was part of the Aircrew and 16-Ship C-141B formation that landed at March AFB all within minutes. As the Wing transferred into the 1<sup>st</sup> and only AFRC unit equipped organization, the 452<sup>nd</sup> AMW, he became one of the Wing's only qualified Minuteman III qualified Loadmaster. He graduated from the Air Force Reserve Leadership Development course and was elected its Class Leader. He became the NCOIC of Loadmaster Training: Logistics, and planned over 30 additional DOD Military Training Missions, including conducting several aircraft operational load training & test missions for Department of Energy's Nuclear Emergency Search Team (NEST) at Los Alamos National Laboratory. He continued his aircraft and loadmaster proficiency by his qualification in the C-141C. He was a Command level Loadmaster Examiner and has flown more than 5,600 hours in the C-118A, VC-118A, VT-29C/D, C-131D/E, C-141A/B/C Aircraft. He was assigned to the U.S. Air Force Retired in 1999 with more than 25 years of Service in both the US Air Force and US Air Force Reserve, and has 42 Combat or Combat Support Missions during the Vietnam War, Cold War and Desert Shield/Desert Storm Operations.

He entered into service with the Air Force Explorers, 396<sup>th</sup> Aircrew Training Sq. in 2001, completed Officer Candidate School as an Advisor and was commissioned directly to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. He served as its Operations Officer, and Training Officer. In 2010 he was assigned to the 405th Aircrew Training Group as its Plans & Programs Officer. In 2014 he was assigned as the Air Force Explorers Vice Commander. In 2019 he was assigned in a dual role position as the U.S. Military Explorers Chief of Staff.

### EDUCATION

1975 Associate in Arts Degree (AA) - Business Administration – Colorado State University  
1992 Associate in Science Degree (AS) - Aircrew Operations – Community College of the Air Force  
1978 Bachelor of Science Degree (BS) - Business: Transportation Management – University of Colorado  
1984-85 Graduate courses toward MBA - Compl-20 Credits - Seattle International University (*merged w/National University*)

### MILITARY EDUCATION and TRAINING

1968 USAF – Basic Military Training Course, Amarillo AFB, Texas  
1968 USAF – Inventory Management Course, Lowry AFB, Colorado (*Class Leader*)  
1971 USAF – Basic Loadmaster Course, Sheppard AFB, Texas  
1971 USAF – C-141A Loadmaster Course, Charleston AFB, South Carolina  
1971 USAF – Anti-Hijacking Training Course, McGuire AFB, New Jersey  
1971 USAF – Aircraft Wet Ditching Course, Charleston AFB, South Carolina  
1971 USAF – Basic Survival / POW School, Fairchild AFB, Washington  
1972 USAF – NCO Leadership School – 21<sup>st</sup> Air Force, McGuire AFB, New Jersey

1974 USAF – Water Survival Course, Homestead AFB, Florida  
 1982 USAF – C-141B Loadmaster School, Altus AFB, Oklahoma (*Distinguished Graduate*)  
 1988 USAF – Supervisor Safety Training Course, McChord AFB, Washington  
 1990 USAF – Non-Commissioned Officer Academy Course – Air University  
 1996 USAF – Non-Commissioned Officer Leadership Development Course, March ARB, California (*Class Leader*)  
 1998 USAF – Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy Course - Air University

### ASSIGNMENTS

1. December 1967 – February 1968, USAF Basic Training, Amarillo AFB, Texas
2. February 1968 – April 1968, Inventory Mgt Training, Lowry AFB, Colorado
3. April 1968 – March 1969, 6550<sup>th</sup> Air Base Group, Patrick AFB, Florida
4. March 1969 – March 1970, 432<sup>nd</sup> Combat Support Group, Udorn RTAFB, Thailand
5. April 1970 – November 1970, 321 Strategic Missile Wing, Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota
6. November 1970 – January 1971, Basic Loadmaster Training, Sheppard AFB, Texas
7. January 1971 – April 1973, C-141A Loadmaster, 76<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Squadron, Charleston AFB, South Carolina
8. April 1973 – May 1975, C-118/T-29/C-131 Instructor FTS/Loadmaster, Examiner FTS/Loadmaster, Peterson AFB, CO
9. May 1975 – December 1975, 46<sup>th</sup> Transportation Squadron, Air Freight Supervisor, Peterson AFB, Colorado
10. December 1981 – May 1988, 97<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Squadron, C-141B Loadmaster, McChord AFB, Washington
11. April 1982 - May 1982, C-141B Loadmaster Training Altus AFB, Oklahoma
12. May 1988 – June 1992, C-141B Loadmaster 729<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Squadron, Norton AFB, California
13. June 1992 – August 1999, C-141B/C Loadmaster, 729<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, March ARB, California
14. December 2001 – May 2002, AFX Officer Training, 396<sup>th</sup> Aircrew Training Squadron, Phoenix, Arizona
15. May 2002 – May 2005 Operations & Training Officer, (AFX) 396<sup>th</sup> Aircrew Training Squadron, Phoenix, Arizona
16. May 2010 – Plans & Projects Officer, (AFX) 405<sup>th</sup> Aircrew Training Group, Phoenix, Arizona
17. May 2014 - Present, Vice Commander, HQS Air Force Explorers (AFX), Phoenix, Arizona
18. July 2019 - Present, Chief of Staff (Dual Role), Department of the U.S. Military Explorers (USMX), Phoenix, Arizona

### FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Chief Enlisted Aircrew Badge  
 Past Qualifications: Command Flight Examiner & Instructor FTS / Aircraft Loadmaster, Combat Aircrew  
 Flight Hours: 5,600+  
 Aircraft Flown: C-141A, VT-29C/D, C-118A, VC-118A, C-131D/E, C-141B, C-141C

### MILITARY AWARDS and DECORATIONS

#### U.S. Air Force & U.S. Air Force Reserve

1. Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster
2. Air Medal
3. Air Force Commendation Medal
4. Air Force Presidential Unit Citation
5. Outstanding Unit Award with one silver leaf cluster, one gold leaf cluster, Gold Valor
6. Combat Readiness Medal with four oak leaf clusters
7. Air Force Good Conduct Medal with one oak leaf cluster
8. Air Reserve Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters
9. National Defense Service Medal with service star
10. Vietnam Service Medal with two service stars
11. Southwest Asia Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters
12. Overseas Service Ribbon-Short
13. Air Force Longevity Service Award with four oak leaf clusters
14. Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 'M' device
15. NCO Professional Military Education Graduate
16. Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with two service stars
17. Air Force Training Ribbon
18. Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation
19. Vietnam Campaign Medal

20. Kuwait Liberation Medal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
21. Kuwait Liberation Medal Government of Kuwait

#### U.S. Air Force Explorers

1. USAF Explorers Meritorious Service Medal
2. USAF Explorers Joint Service Commendation Medal
3. USAF Explorers Commendation Medal w/two bronze devices
4. USAF Explorers Achievement Medal w/one bronze device
5. USAF Explorers Outstanding Unit Award w/two silver and two bronze devices
6. USAF Explorers BSA Quality Unit Award w/two silver and two bronze devices
7. USAF Explorers Good Conduct Medal w/two bronze devices
8. USAF Explorers Air Intelligence Award w/one bronze device
9. USAF Explorers Recognition Award
10. USAF Explorers National Defense Medal w/two bronze devices
11. USAF Explorers POW-MIA Awareness Ribbon
12. USAF Explorers Community Service Award w/bronze device
13. USAF Explorers Longevity Ribbon w/two bronze devices
14. USAF Explorers Airmanship Career Field Award
15. USAF Explorers Professional Military Education Ribbon
16. USAF Explorers Officer Accession Training Award

### EFFECTIVE DATES of PROMOTION

#### U.S. Air Force & U.S. Air Force Reserve

January 1968 ---- Airman (AMN)  
 July 1968 ----- Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class (A1C)  
 January 1970 ---- Sergeant (SGT)  
 August 1971 ----- Staff Sergeant (SSGT)  
 October 1986 ---- Technical Sergeant (TSGT)  
 October 1996 ---- Master Sergeant (MSGT)

#### U.S. Air Force Explorers

December 2001-- Chief Warrant Officer 4 (CW4)  
 May 2002 ----- 1st Lieutenant (1LT)  
 January 2005 ---- Captain (CAPT)  
 January 2011 ---- Major (MAJ)  
 January 2014 ---- Lieutenant Colonel (LT COL)

## **CIVIC & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Air Force Association – Arlington, VA (*Life Member*)

Professional Loadmasters Association - Tacoma, WA (*Life Member*)

Norton-March Alumni Association - March ARB, CA (*Founder, Life Member, Chair-Bi-Annual Reunions, Communications Comm.*)

Veterans of Foreign Wars - Gross-Yaksh V.F.W. Post 6498, Milwaukee, WI (*Member*)

LFL - Exploring Program (*Adult Advisor*), U.S. Air Force Explorers: (396 ATRS Training Officer, 396 ATRS Operations Officer, 405 ATRG Plans & Programs Officer; *Current - U.S. Air Force Explorers Vice-Commander; U.S. Military Explorers Chief of Staff*)

Knights of Columbus - Assembly 1667, West Bend, WI - (*4th Degree-Senior Knight; Current - Member*)

Knights of Columbus - Council 7798, Holy Hill, Hubertus, WI - (*3rd Degree-Member, Deputy Grand Knight, Grand Knight - with Achievement of Columbia Award, Star Council Award; Current - 3rd Yr. Trustee, Past Grand Knight*)

Independent Book Publishers Association – Manhattan Beach, CA (*Member Author-Publisher*)

\*Knights of Columbus-Council 10050, Scottsdale, AZ (*3rd Degree-Member, Chairman-Public Relations, Youth Committee*)

\*Knights of Columbus-Council 10050, Scottsdale, AZ (*3rd Degree-Member, Chairman-Public Relations, Youth Committee*)

\*BSA - Troops 30 & 818, Phoenix, AZ (*Troop Committee, Religious Emblem Counselor*)

\*BSA - Grand Canyon Council, AZ (*Interfaith Committee on Scouting - Member*)

\*PhxDCCS - Phoenix Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting (*Member, Chairman-Religious Counselor Training*)

\*NCCS - National Catholic Committee on Scouting (*Member, Training Committee*)

\*SMEI – Sales & Marketing Executives International – Phoenix, AZ (*Board Member, VP-Programs*)

\*Inactive status

## **PUBLICATIONS**

(Block 2020)

Block, Tom 2020. *The American Truth Index Series, Vol. 5, No. 3 - Issues on Misc American Topics (Health Care System)*, Jan. 1, 2020, (*Wisconsin: Starlifter Publications, LLC.*) 4 pgs

Block, Tom 2019. *The American Truth Index Series, Vol. 1, No. 2 - Issues on the U.S. Government (The Executive Branch)*, Sep. 1, 2019, (*Wisconsin: Starlifter Publications, LLC.*) 4 pgs

Block, Tom 2019. *The American Truth Index Series, Vol. 4, No. 2 - Issues on American Political Information (Major Political Parties of the United States)*, Oct. 1, 2019, (*Wisconsin: Starlifter Publications, LLC.*) 4 pgs

(Block 2018)

Block, Tom 2018. *THE America WE KNOW (1st Edition)*, July 17, 2018, LCCN: 2018907387, ISBN-13: 978-1-54562-560-6, (Florida: Mill City Press, Inc.) 620 pgs

(Block 2016)

Block, Thomas H. 2016. *U.S. Air Force Explorers - Cadet Officer's Personal Development Handbook- Young Adult's Version (7th Edition)*, January 11, 2016. (Arizona: North America Systems, LLC.) 206 pgs

(USAF Explorers 2013)

United States Air Force Explorers 2013. *AFXH 10-100 - U.S. Air Force Explorers Warrior Handbook (6th Edition)*, April 15, 2013. (U.S. Air Force Explorers, c/o 396th Aircrew Training Squadron - Phoenix, Arizona) 410 pgs

## **BLOG ENTRY**

(Block 2018)

Block, Tom. 2018 "Veteran's Day - 100 Year Anniversary (End of World War I)," *Knowing America* (blog), November 10, 2018 <https://tomblock.us/blog/f/veterans-day---100-year-anniversary-the-end-of-world-war-i>

(Block 2018)

Block, Tom. 2018 "Halloween - Begging for Candy" *Knowing America* (blog), October 19, 2018. <https://tomblock.us/blog/f/halloween---begging-for-candy>

(Block 2018)

Block, Tom. 2018 "Electoral System vs Popular Vote!," *Knowing America* (blog), August 17, 2018. <https://tomblock.us/blog/f/electoral-system-vs-popular-vote>

(Block 2018)

Block, Tom. 2018 "The United States of Columbus," *Knowing America* (blog), July 31, 2018. <https://tomblock.us/blog/f/the-united-states-of-columbus>

(*Current as of January 2020*)