



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

MAJOR JOSHUA A. TOLIN

Major Joshua Tolin is a Senior Defense Counsel for the Trial Defense Division, assigned to Districts 3 & 4, and stationed at Joint Base San Antonio – Randolph, Texas. In this role, Major Tolin oversees defense operations in the Jalapeño Region of District 4 (covering Altus AFB, Oklahoma, Holloman AFB, New Mexico, Luke AFB, Arizona, and Sheppard AFB, Texas) and provides experienced legal representation to Airmen and Guardians stationed around the world who are facing general courts-martial and other adverse actions.



This is Major Tolin's third assignment defending officers and enlisted service members accused of wrongdoing. Prior to his last assignment, Major Tolin served as the Expeditionary Area Defense Counsel at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, providing around-the-clock defense services to Airmen deployed throughout the United States Air Forces Central Command Area of Responsibility (20 countries in Central and Southwest Asia) and the Horn of Africa (12 countries in East Africa).

The Airmen he assisted were engaged in various combat and support missions, including NATO's RESOLUTE SUPPORT and Operations INHERENT RESOLVE and FREEDOM'S SENTINEL. He also previously served as the Area Defense Counsel at Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota.

Before entering the Air Force, Major Tolin served as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Alan B. Johnson, U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming, and worked in private practice in Cheyenne, Wyoming. He is admitted to practice law before the Supreme Courts of Colorado and Wyoming, the U.S. District Courts for the Districts of Colorado and Wyoming, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

Major Tolin received his commission through the Direct Appointment Program in August 2014 and entered active duty in October 2014. Before his current assignment, Major Tolin served as a Special Trial Counsel for Office of Special Trial Counsel Districts 3 & 4 and as a Special Victims Unit-Circuit Trial Counsel in the Central Circuit. In that role, Major Tolin was recognized for his training and experience as a criminal trial lawyer, specializing in cases with allegations of the most sensitive nature. For years, Major Tolin has provided hands-on training and mentorship to many of the judge advocates and paralegals currently working on both sides of the courtroom. He also previously served as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate at Headquarters, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado.

Major Tolin is married to Elizabeth Tolin, who serves the Department of Defense both as the civilian Integration and Acquisition International Programs Manager for AUKUS, the trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States concerning nuclear-powered submarines, and as a Commander, Aircraft Maintenance Officer, and 16-year member of the Wyoming Air National Guard; they have five children: Samantha, Oliver, Sarah, Tobias, and Hilah.

EDUCATION

- 2005 Bachelor of Science in Political Science, University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE
- 2007 Master of Business Administration, University of Nebraska Graduate College, NE
- 2010 Juris Doctor with Honor, University of Wyoming College of Law, WY

2014 Commissioned Officer Training, Maxwell AFB, AL, *Distinguished Graduate*
2015 Judge Advocate Staff Officers Course, Maxwell AFB, AL
2019 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, AL

ASSIGNMENTS

1. November 2014 – July 2017, Assistant Staff Judge Advocate (Chief of Adverse Actions, Chief of Community Legal Services), Headquarters, United States Air Force Academy, CO
2. July 2017 – June 2018, Area Defense Counsel, Air Force Legal Operations Agency, Trial Defense Division, Ellsworth AFB, SD
3. July 2018 – July 2019, Expeditionary Area Defense Counsel, Air Force Legal Operations Agency, Trial Defense Division, Al Udeid AB, Qatar
4. July 2019 – July 2022, Special Trial Counsel, Office of the Special Trial Counsel Districts 3 & 4 (previously Special Victims Unit-Circuit Trial Counsel, Central Circuit), AF/JA – Military Justice and Discipline/Government Trial and Appellate Operations, Joint Base San Antonio – Randolph, TX
5. July 2022 – Present, Senior Defense Counsel, OSTC Districts 3 & 4 (previously Circuit Defense Counsel, Central Circuit), AF/JA – Military Justice and Discipline/Trial Defense Division, Joint Base San Antonio – Randolph, TX

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal
Air and Space Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster
Air and Space Organizational Excellence Award with one oak leaf cluster
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Air and Space Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

First Lieutenant	14 August 2014
Captain	17 April 2015
Major	1 January 2021

(Current as of September 2023)