



# BIOGRAPHY

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

## MAJOR JOSHUA A. TOLIN

Major Joshua Tolin serves as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee and Assistant Staff Judge Advocate for the 17th Training Wing, Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas. A Joint Center of Excellence, Goodfellow is the home for the Department of Defense Fire Academy and multi-service intelligence technical training. The Wing is responsible for training more than 14,000 firefighting and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance warriors annually for the United States Air Force, Space Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, other government agencies, and allied nations.



In his last assignment as an active-duty judge advocate, Maj Tolin was a Senior Defense Counsel for the Trial Defense Division, assigned to Districts 3 & 4, and stationed at Joint Base San Antonio – Randolph, Texas. Major Tolin assisted other Senior Defense Counsel with their regions and has supervised District 4's Jalapeño Region (Altus AFB, Oklahoma, Holloman AFB, New Mexico, Luke AFB, Arizona, and Sheppard AFB, Texas) and Districts 3 & 4/Central Circuit's Ranger Region (Dyess AFB, Texas, Goodfellow AFB, Texas, Laughlin AFB, Texas, and Sheppard AFB, Texas). Major Tolin also handled long-term coverage for District 4's Alamo Region (Joint Base San Antonio – Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Joint Base San Antonio – Lackland, Texas, and Joint Base San Antonio – Randolph, Texas) and the Central Circuit's Twister Region (Altus AFB, Oklahoma, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, and Whiteman AFB, Missouri). Major Tolin provided experienced legal representation to Airmen and Guardians stationed around the world who are facing general courts-martial and other adverse actions, as detailed. Finally, Major Tolin served as Individual Military Defense Counsel to members of the Department of the Air Force and sister services, as approved. While no defense counsel can guarantee any certain results, in his role as Senior Defense Counsel in the Air Force, Major Tolin personally succeeded in securing no conviction for 95% of the crimes charged against his clients.

His last active-duty assignment was Major Tolin's third assignment defending service members accused of wrongdoing. Prior to that, 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 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, Texas, and Wyoming, the U.S. District Courts for the Districts of Colorado and Wyoming, the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals, 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 was Special Trial Counsel for Districts 3 & 4 and Special Victims Unit-Circuit Trial Counsel in the Central Circuit; as such, he was recognized in the top-tier of criminal trial lawyers, specializing in military justice cases with allegations of

the most sensitive nature. He remains one of the very few Air Force JAGs who have served as a senior litigator for both the prosecution and defense; for years, Major Tolin has provided hands-on training and mentorship to many of the judge advocates and paralegals serving in all litigation roles. 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 17-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 – October 2024, Senior Defense Counsel, Districts 3 & 4 (previously Circuit Defense Counsel, Central Circuit), AF/JA – Military Justice and Discipline/Trial Defense Division, Joint Base San Antonio – Randolph, TX
6. October 2024 – Present, Individual Mobilization Augmentee and Assistant Staff Judge Advocate, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 17th Training Wing, Goodfellow AFB, 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 October 2024)