

California State Guard

BIOGRAPHY

Special Assistant to the Commanding General
Sacramento, CA
(661) 317-0858

JFHQ

david.smith.299@us.af.mil

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID G. SMITH

Brigadier General David G. Smith is a Special Assistant to the Commanding General, for the California State Guard (CSG). He supports Title 32 actions for the readiness, effectiveness and integration of the CSG with the California National Guard. He is also retired from the United States Air Force with most recent duties as the Inspector General for Edwards AFB as well as an Experimental Test Flight Radar Navigator attached to the 419th Flight Test Squadron, supporting the development, evaluation and procurement of new technologies in aircraft performance, weaponry, and avionics. He is presently a civil servant and the Director of the multi-billion dollar Air Force Production and Flight Test Facility at Plant 42.



General Smith entered the Air Force in 1982. He received his flight training at Mather Air Force Base, California. Selected for B-52's he attended the first Navigator Offensive Avionics Systems class at Castle Air Force Base, California graduating with top honors. His first formal tour was at Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota as a Navigator and Instructor. Closure of B-52 operations there prompted a move to Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington, as a Navigator, Instructor Navigator, Radar Navigator, Instructor Radar Navigator, Flying Safety Officer, and Assistant Flight Commander. Here he was the lead navigator for the Wing's record setting performance in SAC's 1986 Bombing and Navigation Competition, winning 9 of 11 awards--including the coveted Fairchild Trophy; an achievement recognized by President Reagan. He was hand-picked from all B-52, B-1 and FB-111 crews to accompany General Chain, CINCSAC, to represent the SAC alert force receiving the David C. Schilling Award for the year's most outstanding contribution to flight. General Smith then moved to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, as an Instructor, Flight Examiner and Standardization and Evaluation branch chief. There he completed the elite PAC ACES (Pacific Air Forces Advanced Combat Employment School) strike force course in the Philippines. Closing B-52 operations there General Smith moved back to Castle Air Force Base, as a Combat Crew Training School Instructor Radar Navigator, Flight Examiner, Branch Chief, and Executive Officer. General Smith was instrumental in the complete revision of the B-52 curriculum shifting the focus from nuclear to conventional war fighting. As Castle closed he transferred to Beale Air Force Base where he served as the Assistant Chief Wing Planning Staff, Chief Wing Inspections and Chief Wing Command Post, directly impacting the critical worldwide U-2 and SR-71 reconnaissance mission. He was then individually selected for the unique National Training Center serving as Regimental Air Liaison Officer attached to the elite 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, as well as a Brigade Trainer, instructing and evaluating the close air support mission in joint operations with the United States Army. Following this he was by-name selected to support the experimental B-52 mission at Edwards Air Force Base, and then became the Deputy Director of the 412th Test Management Group with oversight over all the Center's flight test and evaluation efforts. He retired from active duty as the Edwards Inspector General. General Smith is a master navigator with over 3000 flying hours and a private pilot. He is a combat veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom serving in Baghdad. General Smith was born a military dependent in Camp Zama, Japan, and calls Hawaii home. He is married to the former Denise Cook, and they share six children, a son Damien, and daughters, Daira, Darcie, Avalon, Bailee, and Madyson.

EDUCATION:

- 1976, Bachelor degree, General Studies/Chemistry, Chaminade University of Hawaii.
- 1989, Squadron Officers School, in residence, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.
- 1994, Masters of Aeronautical Science, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.
- 1996, Air Command and Staff College, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.
- 2001, National Test Pilot School, Mojave, California
- 2002/06, Certified Acquisition Professional, Level 3, Test and Evaluation, Level 3, Project Management
- 2003, Air War College, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.
- 2012, Doctor of Business Administration specializing in Aviation, Northcentral University, Arizona.
- 2018, Air Force Civilian Leadership Course, Warrenton, Virginia
- 2019, Air Force Leading Effectively Through Change, Washington DC
- 2022, Excellence in Government Fellow

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. August 1982 - November 1982, Officers Training School, Lackland AFB, Tx.
2. December 1982 - September 1983, Undergraduate Navigator Training, Mather AFB, Ca.
3. September 1983 - June 1984, B-52 Combat Crew training, Castle AFB, Ca.
4. June 1984 - October 1985, B-52 Navigator, and Instructor Navigator, Ellsworth AFB, S.D.
5. October 1985 - October 1989, B-52 Navigator, Instructor Navigator, Radar Navigator, Instructor Radar Navigator, and Assistant Flight Commander, Fairchild AFB, Wa.
6. October 1989 - May 1990, Instructor Radar Navigator, Flight Examiner, and Standardization and Evaluation Branch Chief, Andersen AFB, Guam.
7. May 1990 - August 1995, Executive/Quality Officer, B-52 Combat Crew Training Squadron Instructor Radar Navigator, Flight Examiner, Academic Instructor, Branch Chief, Castle AFB, Ca.
8. August 1995 - September 1998, Assistant Chief Wing Planning Staff, Chief Wing Inspections, Chief Wing Command Post, Beale AFB, Ca.
9. September 1998 - June 2001, Regimental ALO/Flight Commander, Deputy Commander/Executive Officer, Det 2 USAF Air Ground Operations School, National Training Center, Ft Irwin, Ca.
10. June 2001 – December 2010, Chief, B-52 Avionics and Weapons Integration and Experimental Test Flight Radar Navigator; Acting and Deputy Director, Project Management Directorate & Test Management Group; Deployed to Baghdad, Iraq; Installation Inspector General, Edwards AFB, Ca.
11. May 2011 - October 2013, Government Flight Representative, Edwards AFB Ca.
12. January 2011 – June 2014, Commander, 163rd Reconnaissance Wing Support Unit, March ARB Ca.
13. October 2013 – July 2020, Installation Support Director, Edwards AFB Ca.
14. June 2014 – August 2016, Commander, Air Support Command, Joint Forces HQ, Sacramento Ca.
15. August 2016 – Dec. ‘18, Deputy Commander, California State Military Reserve, Joint Forces HQ, Ca.
16. December 2018 – 2021, Commander, Air Component, California State Guard, Joint Forces HQ, Ca.
17. July 2020 – Present, Director, Air Force Production and Flight Test Facility, Plant 42, Palmdale Ca.
18. May 2021 – Present, Special Assistant to the Commanding General, California State Guard

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Master Navigator (military), Private Pilot (civilian); Flight Hours: Approximately 3000
 Aircraft: B-52G and H; other Aircraft: F-16, T-37, T-43, OH-58, UH-1, UH-60, Cessna 172, Chipmunk (x), Derringer (x), Dove (x), Merlin (x) *"x denotes experimental"*

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Legion of Merit Medal (CA) with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with 6 oak leaf clusters, Aerial Achievement Medal, Joint Services Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Nuclear Deterrence Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Combat Readiness Medal with three oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:

15th Air Force Crew of the Year
 1986 SAC Bombing and Navigation Competition Lead Navigator, winning the Crumm, Ryan, Lemay, Dougherty, Mathis, and coveted Fairchild Trophies
 Represented SAC's alert force with CINCSAC at David C. Schilling award Presentation
 Honor Graduate, Joint Firepower Controller Course, USAF Battlestaff Training School

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant	4 November 1982	Lieutenant Colonel	1 May 1999
First Lieutenant	4 November 1984	Colonel (CA)	5 March 2013
Captain	4 November 1986	Brigadier General (CA)	1 August 2016
Major	1 October 1994		(Current as of May 2022)