

MAJ JOSHUA SOLTAN | USMC

// C-130 “Fat Albert” Pilot

Major Joshua Soltan is a native of Spokane, Washington where he graduated from Central Valley High School in 2006. In 2010, he graduated from Central Washington University with a Bachelor of Science in Aviation and a Minor in Business Administration. In August of 2010, he earned his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps through the Platoon Leaders Course program. He reported to Officer Selection Office, 12th Recruiting District Seattle, Washington as an Assistant Officer Recruiter. In 2011, he transferred to The Basic School at Camp Barrett, Quantico, Virginia to complete training.

Joshua reported to Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Florida for Aviation Indoctrination in 2011. Following, he completed Primary flight training in the T-34C “Turbomenter” with Training Squadron (VT) 27 and finished Advanced training in the T-44C “Pegasus” while assigned to VT-31 in August 2013 at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas. He earned his Naval Aviator wings of gold on August 2, 2013.

Joshua then reported to the Fleet Replacement Detachment-East, at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point, North Carolina for initial training in the KC-130J Super Hercules. Following the completion of training, Joshua reported to Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) 252 “OTIS”, where he qualified as a copilot, before transferring to VMGR-152 “SUMOS” aboard MCAS Futenma and then Iwakuni, Japan in 2014. There he served as Schedules Officer, Aviation Safety Officer, and instructor pilot in support of 1st Marine Air Wing, numerous forward deployed exercises, and humanitarian aid missions such as Operation Sahayogi Haat and Joint Task Force (JTF) 505 in 2015.

After completing his tour with the “SUMOS” in 2017, Joshua reported to EWTGLANT, at Little Creek, Norfolk, Virginia, to qualify as a Joint Terminal Attack Controller, then served with 2d Reconnaissance Battalion aboard Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, as the Air Officer and Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC). Further qualifying as Naval Parachutist after attending Fort Benning, Georgia’s Army Airborne in April 2018.

In 2019, Joshua returned to VMGR-252, where he filled the billets of Airframes Maintenance Division Officer, Assistant Aircraft Maintenance Officer, and Assistant Operations Officer. He served as an instructor pilot with support to numerous operations and service level exercises.

Joshua joined the Blue Angels in 2021. He has accumulated more than 1,600 flight hours, 5 combat hours, numerous operations and exercises in the European, Middle Eastern, and the Pacific areas of responsibility. His decorations include the Humanitarian Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and various personal and service support medals.