



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT RICH S. CLAWSON

SMSgt Rich S. Clawson is the First Sergeant to the Commander, 673d Security Forces Squadron, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. He serves as the principle senior enlisted advisor to the commander in maintaining discipline, standards, morale and welfare of more than 453 Air Force, Army and civilian defenders. He builds and maintains a mission-ready force to execute dynamic and evolving mission requirements. He provides professional guidance and monitors administrative actions, awards, decorations, promotions, professional military education and family care programs.

SMSgt Clawson enlisted in February 2001. He attended the F-15 Aircraft Maintenance Technician course at Sheppard AFB, Texas in a career that lasted six years. He then cross-trained into the Imagery Intelligence Analyst career field, spending 11 years providing weaponized intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support across three combatant commands at the tactical and strategic level. SMSgt Clawson has operated in multiple operational and leadership positions ranging from the squadron to combatant command staff level echelons before being selected by the new Developmental Special Duties program in 2018 to become a First Sergeant.



EDUCATION

- 2005 Airman Leadership School, Kadena Air Base, Japan
- 2007 Imagery Analyst Intelligence Course, Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas
- 2010 Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Lackland AFB, Texas
- 2012 Associate of Applied Science Degree, Aircraft Maintenance Technology Community College of the Air Force
- 2012 Associate of Applied Science Degree, Intelligence Studies and Technology Community College of the Air Force
- 2012 Senior Enlisted Joint PME, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va., by correspondence
- 2013 Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2017 Professional Manager Certification, Community College of the Air Force
- 2018 First Sergeant Academy, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2019 Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Maxwell AFB Gunter Annex, Ala
- 2019 Associate of Applied Science Degree, Human Resource Management Community College of the Air Force

ASSIGNMENTS

1. February 2001–April 2001, Student, Basic Military Training, Lackland AFB, Texas
2. April 2001–September 2001, Student, F-15 Aircraft Maintenance Technician Course, Sheppard AFB, Texas
3. September 2001–February 2003, F-15C/D Crew Chief, 1st Aircraft Maintenance Unit, Tyndall AFB, Fla.
4. March 2003–March 2006, F-15C/D Crew Chief, 44th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, Kadena AB, Japan
5. April 2006–June 2007, F-15E Crew Chief, 391st Aircraft Maintenance Unit, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho
6. June 2007–December 2007, Student, Imagery Analysis Course, Goodfellow AFB, Texas
7. January 2008–July 2009, MQ-1B Sensor Operator, 3d Special Operations Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nev.
8. July 2009–October 2012, MQ-9A Instructor Sensor Operator, 33d Special Operations Squadron, AFB, N.M.
9. November 2012–November 2016, Senior Enlisted Advisor, Joint Intelligence Operations Center, Hawaii.

10. January 2017-April 2018, Flight Chief, 45th Intelligence Squadron, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.
11. April 2018-October 2018, Flight Chief, 497th Operations Supports Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.
12. November 2018-September 2019, First Sergeant, 480th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Wing Staff / 27th Intelligence Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.
13. September 2019-September 2020, First Sergeant, 633d Civil Engineer Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.
14. October 2020 – present, First Sergeant, 673d Security Forces Squadron, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster
Aerial Achievement Medal with 17 oak leaf clusters
Joint Service Commendation Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2010 Distinguished Graduate, Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Lackland AFB, Tex.
2018 Lance P. Sijan Award nominee, Senior Enlisted Category, 480th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Wing, Langley AFB, Va.
2020 First Sergeant of the Year, 673d Air Base Wing, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Airman First Class Apr. 6, 2001
Senior Airman Aug. 6, 2003
Staff Sergeant June 1, 2005
Technical Sergeant July 1, 2009
Master Sergeant June 1, 2013
Senior Master Sergeant May 1 2019

(Current as of March 2021)