

CHAD MINER – *Class of 1994*

Chad Miner dedicated more than 21 years of service to the United States Air Force, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel and accomplished fighter pilot. During his military career, he accumulated more than 2,700 flying hours and completed over 700 air defense and combat missions across North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa while flying the F-16 Fighting Falcon and MQ-9 Reaper.

A Command Pilot, Miner served as an Instructor and Evaluator Pilot, Lead Schoolhouse Instructor Pilot, Functional Check Flight Pilot, and Strike Package Mission Commander, leading large joint and coalition combat operations. He was also a member of the F-16 Demonstration Team and trained pilots from allied nations, including Australia, Bahrain, Italy, Kuwait, South Korea, and the United Kingdom, as well as United States Navy aviators.

Among his many honors, Miner received the Pacific Air Forces Outstanding Airmanship and Aircrew of Distinction awards and was recognized by the President of the United States for leading a critical combat mission. As commander of an MQ-9 attack squadron in the Middle East, he led one of the Air Force's most effective units and earned the Royal Australian Air Force's Chief of Air Force Commendation for successfully integrating Australian coalition forces into combat operations.

Today, Miner resides in South Carolina and serves as a sixth-grade science teacher.