



# BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

## LT. COL. ROB “SONIC” FORINO

Lt. Col. Robert Forino is the commander of the 178th Operations Group, Springfield Air National Guard Base, Ohio.

Lt Col Forino is responsible for organizing, training and equipping two Remotely Piloted Aircraft squadrons directly supporting combat operations.

A graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Forino began his military career in 1996 attending Air Force Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Del Rio, Texas.

Next he attended F-16 Upgrade Training while assigned to the 56th Fighter Wing, Luke AFB, Ariz. As an F-16 fighter pilot, he was assigned to the 522nd Fighter Squadron, Cannon AFB, N.M., then in 2001 to the 134th Fighter Squadron, Vermont ANG, Burlington, Vt. After two assignments in the F-16, Forino was assigned to Sheppard AFB, Texas as an AT-38B Talon instructor pilot. Forino then moved to Nellis AFB, Nev. to attend MQ-1 Predator upgrade training and was assigned to the 15th Reconnaissance Squadron as a combat instructor pilot. He then spent four years as an MQ-1 Formal Training Unit instructor while assigned to the 11th Reconnaissance Squadron at Creech AFB, Nev. Forino spent his last two years on active duty serving as the 432nd OSS Director of Operations, Creech AFB, Nev. After separating from active duty in August of 2011, Forino joined the 178th Wing, Springfield Ohio. He continues to fly combat missions in the MQ-1 while serving as the commander of the 178th Operations Group.



### EDUCATION:

- 1996 Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Ariz.
- 2001 USAF Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2007 USAF Air Command and Staff College, via correspondence
- 2011 Master of Science, Information Technology Management, Trident University
- 2014 USAF Air War College, via correspondence

### ASSIGNMENTS:

1. August 1996 – July 1998, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Laughlin AFB, Texas.
2. August 1998 – April 1999, F-16 Upgrade Training, 62 FS, Luke AFB, Ariz.
3. April 1999 – April 2001, F-16 Fighter Pilot, 522nd FS, Cannon AFB, N.M.
4. May 2001 – August 2003, F-16 Fighter Pilot, 134th FS (VTANG), Burlington IAP, Vt.
5. September 2003 – May 2005, AT-38B Instructor Pilot, 88th FTS, Sheppard AFB, Texas.
6. June 2005 – August 2011, MQ-1 Instructor/Evaluator Pilot, Creech AFB, Nev.
7. August 2011 – Present, MQ-1 Instructor/Evaluator Pilot, Springfield Air National Guard Base, Ohio.

### FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Command Pilot  
Flight hours: 2,800 Hrs.  
Aircraft flown: T-3, T-37, T-38, AT-38B, F-16, MQ-1, MQ-9

### AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Meritorious Service Medal with two bronze oak leaf clusters  
Air Medal

Aerial Achievement Medal with four bronze oak leaf clusters  
Air Force Commendation Medal with one bronze oak leaf cluster  
Meritorious Unit Award with one bronze oak leaf cluster  
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award  
Combat Readiness Medal  
National Defense Service Medal  
Afghanistan Campaign Medal with bronze star  
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal  
Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border  
Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with three bronze oak leaf clusters  
Air Force Training Ribbon  
NATO Medal

**EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:**

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Second Lieutenant  | July 21, 1996 |
| First Lieutenant   | July 21, 1998 |
| Captain            | July 21, 2000 |
| Major              | July 1, 2006  |
| Lieutenant Colonel | Jan 7, 2012   |

(Current as of October 2015)