

## Captain Daniel E. Flynn

AFSC: Q11S3E

Captain Daniel E. Flynn is an evaluator pilot assigned to the 17<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan. He has flown 2,100 hours including 183 hours instructing, 225 hours combat support, and 12 hours combat. He was born at Anchorage, Alaska on 3 Nov 67. Captain Flynn graduated from the top of his class at Caesar Rodney High School, Dover, Delaware in May 86. He then attended Valley Forge Military Academy/Junior College for one year under the USAFA Falcon Scholarship Program. In Aug 87 he entered the United States Air Force Academy, graduating in 1991 with a B.S. in Computer Science.

In Dec 91 he married the former Tina Martin and entered Undergraduate Pilot Training at Reese Air Force Base, Texas. He graduated in Jan 93 near the top of his class. With a 60 percent banked rate for pilots, and the absence of fighter aircraft, he felt fortunate to be able to choose the Lockheed MC-130P Combat Shadow. In Feb 93 Tina and he celebrated the birth of their daughter, Allyson Noelle, and in Aug they arrived at the 9<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Squadron in Eglin Air Force Base, Florida—their first operational unit.

In his three years with the 9 SOS, Captain Flynn deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey four times supporting Operation PROVIDE COMFORT—flying 60 combat support sorties. While at Incirlik he also participated in the rescue attempt of an Air Force Lieutenant Colonel and son lost during a skiing trip. During his time with the 9 SOS he was fortunate to be able to demonstrate Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) capabilities to many dignitaries, including former Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. Sheila E. Widnall. He later gained distinction, aiding in the initial Air Refueling upgrade of an Army CH-47 fleet at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He also participated well in an operational readiness inspection for the 16<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Wing in Apr 96. During that time his crew flew four missions—including one graded *Outstanding*—directly contributing to the squadron's overall *Excellent*. In Aug 96 Captain Flynn was assigned to the 17 SOS, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan. Within 10 days of arrival he deployed to McChord AFB WA and flew 80 hours on Joint Chiefs of Staff Exercise VANQUISH MAGELLAN. In Oct 96 his crew flew six missions, helping earn the 17 SOS an overall *Excellent* during their operational readiness inspection. In Dec 96 Captain Flynn's crew volunteered for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR/GUARD in order to ensure holiday relief for the 67 SOS, long deployed out of RAF Mildenhall, England. His crew flew five combat missions, logging the first combat for a 17 SOS crew since the Vietnam War in 1972. During one of these missions, his crew dodged anti-aircraft fire on their night approach into Sarejevo, Bosnia. In the summer of 1996 his crew completed one of their most harrowing sorties, successfully recovering an MC-130P during night vision goggle low level in the mountains of Korea. The plane was heavily damaged by a flock of large birds, taking two gaping holes in the leading edge of both wings. These holes damaged the aircraft bleed air system and multiple other engine control cables, committing the number two propeller to enter reverse thrust. The account of their incident was later published in the AFSOC Safety Journal, *Focus*. In Jul 97 his crew deployed to Thailand as contingency response for Operation BEVEL EDGE—the United States' preparation to evacuate non-combatants during Cambodian hostilities. Shortly after, he upgraded to mission instructor and was responsible for guiding training and boosting current readiness of the squadron's pilots. In March 98 the 7 AF/CC praised his crew for their search and rescue efforts seeking an F-16 pilot downed in the Yellow Sea near South Korea. Captain Flynn has participated in numerous other exercises staging from Japan, Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, and Australia. He has served as Tactics Officer, most currently as Chief of Operational Exercises and Plans and an additional duty evaluator pilot.

His military awards include the Aerial Achievement Medal with 1 OLC, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with 2 OLC, Combat Readiness Medal with 1 OLC, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with 1 OLC, Armed Forces Service Medal, \_\_\_ Devices, Humanitarian Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with 1 OLC, and the Air Force Training Ribbon.