

MASTER SERGEANT SAMUEL “SAM” SMITH

Master Sergeant Samuel Smith is the United States Air Force’s F-35A Lightning II Heritage, 56th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. As the F-35A Heritage Flight Team Chief, he is responsible for representing Air Education and Training Command, Air Combat Command, United States Air Force, Department of Defense, and the United States of America at 16 air shows annually. He leads nine F-35A Heritage Flight Team enlisted members and oversees all maintenance actions performed on the Lockheed Martin-produced F-35. By doing so, he ensures Heritage Flight pilots are equipped with a safe and effective jet to execute their mission of showcasing the Air Force’s premier fifth-generation aircraft for millions of spectators each year.

MSgt Smith was born in San Bernardino, Ca. He attended San Bernardino High School, in San Bernardino, California, graduating June 1996. Two Years later he enlisted into the United States Air Force. His career has included assignments as an A-10 Repair and Reclamation Journeyman, Transient Alert Journeyman, Unit Training and Education Manager, RQ-4 Aircraft Maintenance Craftsman, RQ-4 Logistics Test Evaluator, F-35 Verification Team Manager, F-35A Crew Chief Section Chief, and F-35 Production Superintendent. He has deployed in support of Operation Southern Watch.

EDUCATION

2002 Airman Leadership School, Lajes Field AB, Portugal
2010 Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Maxwell-Gunter AFB, Alabama
2010 Bachelors of Science in Professional Aeronautics, Embry-Riddle University
2013 Associate Applied Science Degree, Aircraft Systems Maintenance Technology, CCAF

ASSIGNMENTS

1998 – 2002, 355th EMS – A-10 Repair and Reclamation Journeyman, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ
2002 – 2004, 65th OSS – Transient Alert Journeyman, Lajes Field AB, PORTG
2004 – 2005, 65th OSS – Unit Education and Training Manager, Lajes Field AB, PORTG
2005 – 2010, 412 AMXS – RQ-4 Logistics Test Evaluator, Edwards AFB, CA
2010 – 2014, 56th MXLS – F-35 Verification Team Manager, Patuxent River NAS, MD
2014 – 2015, 56th AMXS – F-35 Crew Chief Section Chief, Luke AFB, AZ
2015 – 2016, 56th AMXS – F-35 Production Superintendent, Luke AFB, AZ
2016 – Present, 56th AMXS – F-35 Heritage Flight Team Chief, Luke AFB, AZ

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal
Joint Service Commendation Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters
Air Force Achievement Medal
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with one oak leaf clusters
National Defense Service Medal
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
NCO of the Year 65th OSS, Lajes Field AB PORTG, 2004
Airman of the Year 355th EMS, Davis Monthan AFB, AZ, 2000

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Airman: 4 Jun 1998
Airman 1st Class: 4 Oct 1999
Senior Airman: 4 Jun 2001
Staff Sergeant: 1 Apr 2003
Technical Sergeant: 1 May 2008
Master Sergeant: 1 Jul 2011

(Current as of February 2016)

