



Major Paul “Loco” Lopez II

Demonstration Commander/Pilot



Major Paul Lopez II is the United States Air Force F-22 Demonstration Team Commander and Pilot stationed at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Va. As the F-22 Demonstration Team Commander, he is responsible for representing Air Combat Command, the United States Air Force, the Department of Defense, and the United States of America at more than 20 air shows annually.

He leads the 18-member F-22 Demonstration Team, oversees maintenance actions performed on one of the most advanced fighter jets ever built, and showcases the Raptor’s exceptional maneuverability for more than 10 million spectators around the world each year. He is an operational F-22 pilot assigned to the 1st Operations Group within the 1st Fighter Wing.

Maj. Lopez is from Virginia Beach, Virginia. After graduating from Salem High School, he attended college at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NC A&T SU) in Greensboro, North Carolina. In 2004, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and earned his commission through the NC A&T SU Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Maj. Lopez attended phases I and II of pilot training at Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta, Georgia, flying the T-6 Texan II. He moved to Laughlin AFB in Del Rio, Texas for phase III of pilot training where he learned to fly the T-38C Talon and earned his pilot wings after completing undergraduate pilot training in 2006.

Following pilot training, Maj. Lopez completed Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals, flying the AT-38C Talon at Moody AFB prior to attending the F-15C Eagle Basic Course at Tyndall AFB in Panama City, Florida in 2007. Upon graduation, Maj. Lopez was assigned to the 71st Fighter Squadron at Langley AFB in Hampton, Virginia as an operational fighter pilot.



Maj. Lopez attended the F-22 Raptor transition course in January 2011 at Tyndall AFB. Upon completion, he flew F-22 Raptors in the 27th Fighter Squadron at Langley AFB until October 2012. Maj Lopez then moved to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska and flew Raptors there from November 2012 to January 2016. Following the Alaska assignment, Maj Lopez moved back to Langley AFB in January 2016 and served as the Chief of Flight Safety for the 1st Fighter Wing.

While assigned to the 1st FW, he was selected to be the Air Combat Command F-22 Raptor Demonstration Pilot. Maj. Lopez is an experienced Fighter Pilot with over 1,500 fighter hours flying the F-15 and F-22.

Maj. Lopez enjoys being a part of the F-22 Raptor Demonstration Team and accomplishing the mission of Showcasing American Airpower, Recruiting/Retaining America's Finest Personnel into the Armed Forces, and Enhancing International and Domestic Relationships.