



## **Captain Nitin Y. Prashar**

### **United States Air Force**

### **Assistant Senior Military Mentor**

Capt. Nitin Prashar is from Rockford, Illinois. He graduated from Guilford High School where he was actively involved in several sports and organizations including Student Council, Key Club, National Honor Society, Students Against Destructive Decisions, and served as co-captain of his cross country and track teams. He graduated as a member of the “Top 25” of his class of over 600 students and was inducted into the National Honor Roll and Who’s Who Among American High School Students. He later graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a Bachelor’s in Economics and decided to pursue a career as an Air Force officer. Motivated to serve, Capt. Prashar returned to his hometown joining high school cross country and track coaching staffs as a volunteer. As an assistant coach, he quickly discovered his true passion in serving his community as a mentor of young adults. In hopes of inspiring future leaders, Capt. Prashar created the Trail Blazer Scholarship, rewarding future leaders for being a force of positive change. In its eleventh year, the scholarship has been extended regionally and has so far offered \$16,000 to three aspiring leaders in two states with the aim of becoming a national scholarship in the future. Capt. Prashar earned his commission at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama through Officer Training School in June of 2013, and graduated from the 11-month Combat Systems Officer training program from Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida in October of 2014. From there, he moved to Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska to become an Electronic Warfare Officer aboard the RC-135 aircraft. Joining the Air Force was the perfect opportunity for Capt. Prashar to challenge himself in ways he’d never imagined while also satisfying a desire to continue to learn a variety of unique skills. This career path also enabled him to elevate another key passion; he could now go from serving his community to serving his nation.



Capt. Prashar completed five combat deployments operating out of the Middle East and Europe and was hand-selected to be the Executive Officer to the Commander of the 55th Wing. In this role, he was responsible for executing commander’s intent for the second largest wing in the Air Force, consisting of nearly 8,000 personnel. Capt. Prashar was recognized as a Distinguished Graduate upon completion of Mission Crew Commander training, and again upon completion of Squadron Officer School. He has also been recognized as the 2017 General O’Malley Award winner, given to the “Best Reconnaissance Crew in the Air Force” for his success on a high-profile mission. Capt. Prashar earned his MBA from Purdue University in 2020 and serves as an Evaluator Mission Crew Commander at the largest flying training squadron in the Air Force, training future mission crew commanders and leading up to 36 crewmembers at a time. As a speaker of multiple languages, Capt. Prashar gained acceptance to the selective Language Enabled Airmen Program, and subsequently spent an entire month living in Kathmandu, Nepal with the unique experience of absolute language and cultural immersion.

Despite Capt. Prashar’s distinct experiences, which enable him to offer such a powerful impact as a Military Mentor, the highlight of Capt. Prashar’s career was to have served as a United States Senate Youth Program Military Mentor in 2019. Whether it’s through his scholarship program or his current role as a flying instructor and evaluator, mentoring future leaders from various communities and backgrounds is something he is no stranger to, and he is beyond humbled to be given the privilege of connecting with our nation’s future leaders. He is thrilled to learn from the mentees just as much as they will learn from him as he is a true believer of learning from diverse perspectives.