



**Captain Edward V. Szczepanik
United States Air Force**



Captain Edward Szczepanik is a five year veteran of the United States Air Force and is currently serving as part of the *Why We Serve* speakers program. He has recently returned from an assignment in Afghanistan and is speaking to groups around the country about his personal experiences serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In July 2007, Capt Szczepanik returned from a deployment to Manas Air Base, Kyrgystan where he flew multiple missions into Afghanistan, Qatar, Kuwait, and Lebanon. Capt Szczepanik has over 800 hours of C-17 experience, of which 150 are combat time. Since this deployment he has completed the formal Aircraft Commander training course and will attend an advanced airdrop school in May of 2008. He expects to deploy again in October 2008.

Szczepanik is currently assigned to the 8th Airlift Squadron, McChord Air Force Base, Washington with the Air Mobility Command.

Capt Szczepanik was born in Columbus, OH and graduated from Bishop Watterson High School. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree and graduated with University Honors and Cum Laude distinction from Miami University in Oxford, OH. Szczepanik was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on May 3rd 2003 from the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps. Once commissioned, Szczepanik attended Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi and graduated in October 2004.

Szczepanik decorations include the Air Force Training Ribbon; the Combat Readiness Medal; Global War on Terrorism; the Outstanding Unit Award and the National Defense Medal.