

Captain James C. Olsen is the Education Officer and Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies for Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) Detachment 867 at Norwich University, Northfield, VT. In this capacity, he recruits, trains, evaluates, and motivates highly-qualified men and women as prospective officers and instructs the senior-level course on National Security Affairs and Preparation for Active Duty.

Captain Olsen was raised in a military family but graduated high school in upstate New York. He then started his education at the State University of New York at Potsdam seeking a degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology. After completing his degree requirements he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in May of 2011. Capt Olsen then attended and graduated from Undergraduate Space Training (Space 100), at Vandenberg AFB. From there he was assigned as a Crew Commander to the 6th Space Warning Squadron in Cape Cod, MA. While at the 6th Space Warning Squadron Capt Olsen held multiple positions including Crew Commander, Line Instructor and finally Chief Operations Training. Prior to being selected as an ROTC instructor Capt Olsen was stationed at the 4th Space Operations Squadron, Schriever AFB, CO executing secure, survivable, protected and wideband military satellite communications. While stationed at Schriever AFB he served in various positions to include Crew Commander, Mobile Operations Flight Commander, Operations Flight Commander and finally Assistant Director of Operations. In September 2020, Capt Olsen cross-commissioned into the United States Space Force. Effectively becoming the first member to commission into the Space Force in the state of Vermont, and the only Active Duty Space Force Officer serving in the state.

- 2011 Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice/Sociology, State University of New York at Potsdam, NY
- 2012 Undergraduate Space Training (Space 100), Vandenberg AFB, CA
- 2012 Pave PAWS Weapon System Initial Training, Vandenberg AFB, CA
- 2015 MILSTAR/AEHF SATCOM Operations Course, Vandenberg AFB, CA
- 2017 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2019 Master of Science, Organizational Leadership, Norwich University, VT

Assignments

1. December 2011 to May 2015, Crew Commander, Chief of Operations Training, 6th Space Warning Squadron, Cape Cod, MA
2. June 2015 to March 2019, Operations Flight Commander, Mobile Operations Flight Commander Assistant Director of Operations , 4th Space Operations Squadron, Schriever AFB, Colorado
3. April 2019 to Present, Education Officer, AFROTC Det 867 – Norwich University, Northfield, VT

Major Awards and Decorations

- Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster
- Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal