

# Dr. John Long

**Assistant Professor of Computational Biology**  
**NSU College of Arts and Sciences**  
**U.S. Air Force**



## **Ranks**

Airman Basic: 1985

Airman: 1985

Airman First Class: 1985-1988

Senior Airman: 1988-1989

Sergeant: 1989

Staff Sergeant: 1989

2nd Lieutenant: 1989-1991

1st Lieutenant: 1991-1993

Captain: 1993-2000

Major: 2000-2006

## **Entered Active Service**

January 1985

## **Date of Separation**

April 2006

## **Why did you join the military?**

It was expected. My entire family is career military.



## **Describe your service.**

*(Source: Dr. Long's military biography)*

Major John A. Long was born in Yuma, Ariz., in 1964 and grew up as a Marine Corps/Army "brat." He was an honor graduate from Basic Military Training. After graduating from the Air Traffic Controller's Course, Major Long reported to Altus AFB, Oklahoma, where he served as a radar approach controller for the 2002nd Communications Squadron. In 1987, he cross-trained to be an Air Force historian.

After serving in a variety of positions in locations worldwide, he was temporarily assigned to Diego Garcia, an island in the British Indian Ocean Territory, as a mission planner for bomber operations in the Middle East.

He was the Air Liaison Officer to the Korean 2nd Army as well as the Chief of Standardization and Evaluation for all US Terminal Air Controllers in Korea in at 607th Air Support Operations Group, Osan

AB, Republic of Korea. In 2003, Major Long returned to the 10th Mountain Division, resuming his duties as the Assistant Director of Operations.

Major Long is a senior navigator with over 1,200 hours in various aircraft including the T-37, T-43, B-52G and B-52H. His experience includes 19 months deployed overseas in support of U.S. operations, including Southern Watch, Desert Fox and Enduring Freedom.



### **Highlights of your military career**

I spent six months on Diego Garcia, a small island in the Indian Ocean that is part of the British Indian Ocean Territory. In my off-duty hours I used to go to the south end of the lagoon and swim with the turtles and giant manta rays - a totally surreal experience.

### **How does your military experience influence your work at NSU?**

The military encourages the development of certain traits that are quite useful to my work as a professor and researcher. These would include attention to detail, time management, and a sense of responsibility and integrity.

### **Were you a student veteran?**

Yes

### **What are possible advantages to being a student veteran at NSU?**

Veterans or active military students often have a sense of purpose that traditional students typically do not possess. Most veterans and active duty students have a better idea of why they are in school and what they plan to do with their education after graduation.



### **What are potential challenges a student veteran might encounter at NSU?**

In the military, we often refer to "challenges" as "opportunities to excel." Veteran or active duty students have already faced challenges in excess of what we will ask of them. There is nothing that we do at NSU that cannot be accomplished by someone who is putting forth their best effort. These types of students know how to put forth their best effort.

**Why might NSU be a good choice for a student veteran?**

For the same reasons that it is a good match for all students. At a smaller school, such as NSU, they will take classes taught by professors, not teaching assistants. In addition, our small class sizes ensure that professors and students have a close working relationship. At NSU, you'll be part of a close-knit "unit."

**Your message to veteran or active duty students or prospective students:**

Regardless of how long you serve in the military, there will be a second, non-military phase to your life. You should approach this phase with the same preparation and enthusiasm as you did in the military. A degree is an excellent start.

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