



**Robert J. "Bob" Elder, Jr.**  
**Lt General (USAF Retired)**  
**Senior Consultant, RWB Aerospace Professionals**

Lieutenant General Robert "Bob" Elder (Ret) is an information strategist and technology subject matter expert. Following his retirement from the Air Force as the Commander of the 8th Air Force and U.S. Strategic Command's global strike component, Elder became a research professor at George Mason University and a much sought-after industry consultant. Expert in assured communications, command and control, strategic stability and deterrence, competition-cooperation management, and international actor decision-making.

- Assured Communications & Datalinks
- Technology Insertion
- System Modeling & Decision Making
- Cyber Innovation
- Command & Control
- International Defense Strategy

**Accomplishments**

**Assured Comms & Datalinks, Technology Insertion**

Applies his PhD in Engineering and knowledge of emerging technologies to assist clients with complex and leading edge communications solutions. Advises customers on operational needs and challenges, advanced operational communications, datalinks, and networking program strategies. Instrumental in the development and technology insertion of countless products into successful military systems.

**Cyber Innovation**

As the first commander of Air Force Network Operations, Elder led the development of the cyberspace mission for the Air Force. Established the Air Force's cyber and computer network operations command capabilities. Implemented concepts to improve network operations and security, establish network defense in depth, and enable Air Force to fully exploit cyberspace for military purposes. Currently conducts research in cyberspace resiliency and defense.

**Command & Control, Leadership**

Retired from the USAF as the Commander of 8th Air Force and U.S. Strategic Command's global strike component. Restored Air Force nuclear operations and deterrence expertise and credibility. As Commander, CENTAF-Forward Combined Air Headquarters, served as executive director for the Air Force's Southwest Asia region and operated its Air Operations Center in Qatar. Served as deputy to the chief executive for Air Force's Southwest Asia regional operations while the Deputy Commander, 9th Air Force.

**System Modeling & Decision-Making**

Employs extensive cyber experience in the research of integrated command and control, operational resiliency in degraded environments, strategic deterrence, and the use of modeling to support national security decision-making.

**Intl Defense Strategy**

While the Commander, CENTAF-Forward Combined Air Headquarters, served as Executive Director for the Air Force's Southwest Asia region and operated its Air Operations Center in Qatar. In prior years, reshaped the NATO Reaction Force Air Staff to serve as NATO's center for development of air power concepts.

## **Work History**

<b>Consultant &amp; Research Professor:</b> Advises clients on operational needs and challenges, advanced operational communications, datalinks, technology insertion, and networking program strategies. Conducts research in the areas of international actor decision-making, military command and control, and cyberspace resiliency and defense. Directs studies to improve effectiveness of joint operations under degraded conditions. Conducts research into use of system models to inform national security decision-making, as well as on organizational resiliency of command and control architectures. Supports development of enabling processes to speed acquisition of cyber capabilities.	2009-Present
<b>Commander, 8th Air Force:</b> Served as chief executive for the Air Force's global operations sector. Restored Air Force nuclear operations and deterrence expertise and credibility. Established the Air Force's cyber and computer network operations command capabilities. Implemented concepts to improve network operations and security, establish network defense in depth, and enable Air Force to fully exploit cyberspace for military purposes. Delivered over 50 technical and military presentations to military and civilian audiences.	2006-2009
<b>Commandant, Air War College:</b> Served as chancellor for Air Force's senior education institution. Established research centers for space, cyberspace, and information operations. Facilitated technical and strategic discussions between engineers and users in areas of cyberspace, information operations, and aerospace systems. Implemented outreach programs to reach domestic and international audiences.	2004-2006
<b>Commander, CENTAF-Forward Combined Air Headquarters:</b> Served as executive director for the Air Force's Southwest Asia region and operated its Air Operations Center in Qatar. Developed and implemented a multinational cross-domain collaboration network. Devised procedures to adapt existing technology to protect civilian aircraft in hostile airspace. Established procedures to fully synchronize primary and alternate air operations centers.	2003-2004
<b>Deputy Commander, 9th Air Force:</b> Served as deputy to the chief executive for Air Force's Southwest Asia regional operations. Negotiated operational use of facilities in Oman, Qatar, UAE, and Saudi Arabia. Directed Air Force planning for major combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.	2001-2003
<b>Deputy Director, NATO Reaction Force Air Staff:</b> Directed daily activities of a 19-member European association coordinating operating standards, organization, training, and equipment. Reshaped organization to serve as NATO's center for development of air power concepts.	2000-2001

**Earlier military career can be found at the bio link below.**

## **Education:**

Doctor of Engineering - Graduate College, University of Detroit - Detroit, Michigan (1985)  
Master of Engineering - Graduate College, University of Detroit - Detroit, Michigan (1976)  
Bachelor of Electrical Engineering - College of Engineering, University of Detroit - Detroit, Michigan (1975)  
National Security Studies Program - National War College - Fort Lesley J. McNair - Washington, D.C. (1991)

**Military Bio Available at:** <https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Biographies/Display/Article/104897/lieutenant-general-robert-j-bob-elder-jr/>

**List of additional education, major awards and decorations, and selected publications is available upon request.**

**Security Clearance:** Active Security Clearance