

## **2nd Lt Christopher Backus**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Christopher Backus** grew up in Edmond, Oklahoma, and graduated from Edmond Memorial High School. He was a National Merit Scholar, which paid his way to the University of Oklahoma for his undergraduate degree. He graduated from there with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1996. His father and stepfather had each done a tour in the Navy, and his stepfather recommended the Navy or Air Force if he should ever enter the military. Despite being pre-med, he commissioned in the Air Force from ROTC in 1997 and went to pilot training at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma. After completing pilot training, he continued at Vance AFB as a T-37 instructor pilot for three years. He moved to McChord AFB in Washington in 2002 and flew the C-17 as an aircraft commander and instructor pilot, including combat missions into Iraq and Afghanistan. He applied to USU initially in 1996 because he wanted to serve, but he entered the line of the Air Force and attended pilot training instead. After 9 years of service, he knew he wanted to continue his military career as a physician and believed USU was the only place to go for that purpose. He entered USU in 2006 as a member of the class of 2010. In December 2006, he married USU classmate, Yolanda Figueroa.