



BIOGRAPHY



AIR NATIONAL GUARD

COLONEL JOHN S. LADNER

Colonel Ladner is the Commander, Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) Gulfport, MS. The primary mission of the CRTC Gulfport is to provide an integrated, year round, realistic joint training environment (Air Space, Ranges, Systems, Facilities, and Equipment) for units to enhance their capability and combat readiness. Colonel Ladner is responsible for all operations of the Combat Readiness Training Center, which includes the Shelby East and West Air to Ground Gunnery Ranges, five drop zones, C-17/C-130/C-27 Assault Strip, the Air Combat Training System and all associated airspace. The CRTC is host to more than 20,000 deployed personnel annually and supports all Aerial Port of Embarkation/Debarcation (APOE/D) Contingency Operations in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and the Horn of Africa.



Colonel Ladner graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy with Military Distinction in 1986. His career includes a variety of operational and staff positions across four major commands, and eight deployments in support of operations Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and NORTHCOM. After various assignments as a B-52 and B-1 instructor/evaluator and safety officer, Colonel Ladner accepted a full-time active duty assignment in 1998 with the Georgia Air National Guard in the 116th Bomb Wing at Robins AFB, Georgia, and helped the unit convert from F-15 fighters to B-1 bombers. He served as an instructor WSO, chief of training, aircraft maintenance officer, and executive officer for the Logistics Group Commander. In 2000 he accepted an assignment with the Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) in the Mississippi Air National Guard and was the Director of Operations. During Hurricane Katrina relief efforts Colonel Ladner was responsible for airfield operations and base security; Gulfport CRTC Operations section safely and successfully managed over 300 airlift missions, 2,000,000 pounds of cargo, and five Presidential visits during that time. In 2008 Colonel Ladner was selected for a special assignment as Director of Operations for the 745th Special Operations Squadron (P) at Hurlburt Field Florida training aircrew in the RC-26 supporting Special Operations Command (SOCOM). Following that he was selected for another special assignment to help develop and operate the MC-12 Project Liberty training program as Chief of Sensor Operators at Key Field in Meridian Mississippi. Before assuming command of the Combat Readiness Training Center he was the Director of Operations for the 286th Air Mobility Operations Squadron. Deployed assignments have included Wing Flight Safety Officer for the 4404th Provisional Wing at Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia, Military Liaison in the Defense Attaché Office of the U.S. Embassy in Qatar, Assistant Director of Operations and Chief Systems Operator for the 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Flight (Operation Horned Owl) Balad Air Base Iraq, Director of Operations for the 45th Expeditionary Special Operations Squadron (Joint Special Operations Task Force) Balad Air Base Iraq, and Commander of the 441st Air Expeditionary Squadron, a classified mission for NORTHCOM and First Air Force.

Colonel Ladner is a master navigator with more than 4,000 flight hours in seven different aircraft, primarily in bombers and manned tactical Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) platforms, including more than 700 combat hours and 176 combat sorties in operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. During the opening hours of Operation Desert Storm Colonel Ladner flew in a top-secret historic mission in which seven B-52s flew over 14,000 miles in 35 hours and launched cruise missiles against time-critical high-value targets in Iraq. They were the first planes launched in the conflict, and it was the longest combat mission in aviation history. He has also been mission commander for 166 special operations combat sorties, and flew reconnaissance missions in support of

Deep Water Horizon during the Gulf Coast oil spill. He has been an FTU instructor/evaluator in four types of aircraft, and was one of the key leaders in building the training programs for the RC-26 and MC-12.

EDUCATION

1986 Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Behavior, U.S. Air Force Academy
1993 Squadron Officers School, Maxwell AFB, AL, in residence
1996 Masters in Business Administration, Louisiana Tech University
2001 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
2008 Air War College, by correspondence

ASSIGNMENTS

September 1986 – August 1987, student, undergraduate navigator training, Mather AFB, CA
August 1987 – March 1988, student, B-52 FTU, Castle AFB, CA
March 1988 – May 1993, B-52 evaluator radar navigator, 596 BS, Barksdale AFB, LA
May 1993 – March 1994, B-52 FTU instructor radar navigator, 328 BS, Castle AFB, CA
March 1994 – March 1998, B-1 FTU instructor WSO, evaluator WSO, Assistant Flight Commander, safety officer, 28 BS, Dyess AFB, TX
March 1998 – January 2000, B-1 instructor WSO, chief of training, aircraft maintenance officer, logistics group executive officer, AGR, 116 BW, Georgia Air National Guard, Robins AFB, GA
January 2000 – January 2006, Air Combat Training System OIC, RC-12D MSO, AGR, Mississippi Air National Guard, Combat Readiness Training Center, Gulfport, MS
January 2006 – September 2010, Director of Operations, RC-26B MSO, AGR, Mississippi Air National Guard, Combat Readiness Training Center, Gulfport, MS
October 2008 – September 2009, Director of Operations, 745th Special Operations Squadron (P), Hurlburt Field FL
October 2009 – September 2010, Chief of Sensor Operators, MC-12 Project Liberty, 186th Air Refueling Wing, Key Field ANGB, Meridian MS
October 2010 – January 2012, Director of Operations, 286th Air Mobility Operations Squadron, Key Field ANGB, Meridian, MS
May 2011 – August 2011, Commander, 441st Air Expeditionary Squadron, location and mission classified
February 2012 – present, Commander, Combat Readiness Training Center, Gulfport, Mississippi

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Master Navigator
Flight hours: More than 4,000
Aircraft flown: T-37, T-43, B-52 G/H, B-1B, RC-12D, RC-26B, MC-12W

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Bronze Star Medal
Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters
Air Medal with eight Oak Leaf Clusters
Aerial Achievement Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters
Air Force Achievement Medal
Air Force Meritorious Unit Award
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with five Oak Leaf Clusters, Valor device
Combat Readiness Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster
National Defense Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
Southwest Asia Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster
Iraq Campaign Medal with three campaign stars
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Armed Forces Service Medal
Humanitarian Service Medal
AF Overseas Short Tour Ribbon with one Oak Leaf Cluster
Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with five Oak Leaf Clusters and Gold Border
Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with six Oak Leaf Clusters
Armed Forces Reserve Medal with one Hour Glass device and two M devices
Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with one device

Air Force Training Ribbon
Kuwait Liberation Medal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Kuwait Liberation Medal Government of Kuwait
Mississippi War Medal
Mississippi Emergency Service Medal
Mississippi Longevity Medal
Georgia Meritorious Service Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant	May 28, 1986
First Lieutenant	May 28, 1988
Captain	May 28, 1990
Major	Sept. 8, 1999
Lieutenant Colonel	June 28, 2006
Colonel	May 24, 2012

(Current as of August 2012)