



BIOGRAPHY



AIR NATIONAL GUARD

COLONEL BARRY A. BLANCHARD

Colonel Barry A. Blanchard is the Commander, 172d Airlift Wing, Thompson Field, Jackson, Mississippi. He directs the operations, maintenance and support of the Wing's eight assigned C-17 Globemaster III aircraft tasked with providing global strategic and tactical airlift in support of National Command Authority objectives and the objectives of the Governor of Mississippi. The 172d Airlift Wing is comprised of 14 local units and three Geographically Separated Units, and is capable of supporting airlift and aeromedical evacuation operations, tactical airlift control, combat civil engineering, air control, and combat readiness and training.



Colonel Blanchard was commissioned through the United States Air Force Academy in 1992. He attended Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus Air Force Base and received his wings in 1993. He then attended Graduate School at Texas A&M University earning a Master of Science degree in 1994. Before taking command of the 172d Airlift Wing, Colonel Blanchard served as the Commander, 172d Operations Group, directing twenty-four aircrews, ten aeromedical evacuation crews, and the standardization and evaluation function in the operation of the 172d Airlift Wing's eight C-17 aircraft.

A Command/Evaluator pilot with over 4300 hours in the C-17A, Colonel Blanchard has participated in Operation's SOUTHERN WATCH, ALLIED FORCE, ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM and NEW DAWN. While serving as a traditional guardsman, Colonel Blanchard is a pilot with FedEx.

EDUCATION

- 1992 Bachelor of Science, United States Air Force Academy
- 1994 Master of Science, Texas A&M University
- 1999 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 2004 Air Command-Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 2012 Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. July 1992 – July 1993, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Columbus AFB, Miss.
2. August 1993 – December 1994, Student Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas
3. January 1995 – April 1996, Personnel Scientific Analyst, Randolph AFB, Texas
4. May 1996 – February 1998, C-17A Pilot/Wing Tactics Officer, 437th Operations Support Squadron, Charleston AFB, S.C.
5. March 1998 – January 1999, C-17A Pilot/Executive Officer, 14th Airlift Squadron, Charleston AFB, S.C.
6. February 1999 – February 2000, Aircraft Commander C-17A/Executive Officer, 14th Airlift Squadron, Charleston AFB, S.C.
7. March 2000 – November 2000, Instructor Pilot C-17A/Operations Group Executive Officer, 437th Operations Group, Charleston AFB, S.C.
8. December 2000 – October 2001, C-17 CCTS Instructor Pilot/Airspace Manager, 97th Operations Support Squadron, Altus AFB, Okla.

9. November 2001 – May 2002, Flight Commander/C-17 CCTS Instructor Pilot, 58th Airlift Squadron, Altus AFB, Okla.
10. June 2002 – June 2003, Chief C-17A Examiner Pilot, 97th Operations Group, Altus AFB, Okla.
11. July 2003 – December 2005, Initial Cadre C-17A Evaluator Pilot, 183d Airlift Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
12. January 2006 – January 2008, Chief Operations Group Standardization/Evaluation, 172d Operations Group, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
13. February 2008 – March 2011, Flight Commander/C-17A Evaluator Pilot, 183d Airlift Squadron, Jackson-Evers Field, Jackson, Miss.
14. April 2011 – September 2011, Operations Officer/C-17A Evaluator Pilot, 183d Airlift Squadron, Jackson-Evers Field, Jackson, Miss.
15. October 2011 – February 2012, Commander, 172d Operations Support Flight, 172d Operations Group, Jackson-Evers Field, Jackson, Miss.
16. March 2012 – June 2014, Commander, 183d Airlift Squadron, Jackson-Evers Field, Jackson, Miss.
17. June 2014 – May 2015, 172d Operations Group Commander, 172d Airlift Wing, Jackson-Evers Field, Jackson, Miss.
18. May 2015 – Present, 172d Airlift Wing Commander, Jackson-Evers Field, Jackson, Miss.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command/Evaluator Pilot

Flight Hours: 4300+ Military, 1400+ Civilian

Aircraft Flown: T-37B, T-38A, T-1A, DC-10, MD-10, MD-11

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Medal

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with six oak leaf clusters

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award

Combat Readiness Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters

National Defense Medal with bronze star

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Kosovo Campaign Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Armed Forces Service Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal

Air Force Expeditionary Service ribbon with Gold Border

Air Force Longevity Service Award with four oak leaf clusters

Armed Forces Reserve Medal with four "M" devices

Air Force Training Ribbon

Mississippi Medal of Efficiency

Mississippi War Medal

Mississippi Emergency Service Medal

Mississippi Longevity Medal with three oak leaf clusters

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant, May 27, 1992

First Lieutenant, May 27, 1994

Captain, May 27, 1996

Major, December 1, 2002

Lieutenant Colonel, December 8, 2006

Colonel, May 29, 2014

(Current as of 15 Jun 2015)