



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL MATTHEW W. CAUDELL

Col. Matthew W. Caudell is the Vice Wing Commander, 172nd Airlift Wing, Thompson Field, Jackson, Mississippi. He assists the Wing Commander in providing global strategic and tactical airlift in support of National Command Authority objectives and the objectives of the Governor of Mississippi. As the 172nd Airlift Wing's Vice Commander, Col. Caudell directs the day-to-day operations, maintenance, and support of the Wing's nine assigned C-17 Globemaster III aircraft. The 172nd Airlift Wing is comprised of fourteen local units and two 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. He implements the Wing Commander's vision as he trains, equips, and maintains combat mission ready operational and support forces to meet Federal and state response requirements.



Col. Caudell received his commission in the Air Force from the United States Air Force Academy in 1999. Upon graduation, he entered the active-duty Air Force as a civil engineer officer. His experience includes base development, contract project management, environmental engineering, technical design, RED HORSE, airborne operations, academic instruction, asset management, and IG inspections. Colonel Caudell has deployed in support of Operation Southern Watch, New Horizons Joint Task Force Guyana 04, Civic Action Team Palau and Operation Enduring Freedom. Prior to assuming his current position, Colonel Caudell served as the 172nd Mission Support Group Commander, directing and leading more than 450 personnel in six squadrons and flights, including Force Support, Civil Engineering, Security Forces, Logistic Readiness, Communication and a Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron gained by Air Force Special Operations Command.

He is a licensed professional engineer in the state of Colorado with more than 10 years of civil and structural engineering experience.

EDUCATION

1999 Bachelor of Science, Civil Engineering, United States Air Force Academy, Colo.
2005 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala.
2015 Master of Science, Civil Engineering, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.
2009 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
2011 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 1999–September 2002, Contract Programmer; Officer-in-Charge of Base Development; Deputy Environmental Flight Chief, 347th Civil Engineer Squadron, Moody Air Force Base, Ga.
2. September 2002–August 2005, Project Engineer; Commander, Airborne Flight, 820th RED HORSE Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nev.

ASSIGNMENTS Cont'd

3. August 2005–July 2006, Student, Air Force Institute of Technology Civilian Institution Program, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.
4. July 2006–July 2009, Structures Division Chief; Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, United States Air Force Academy, Colo.
5. July 2009–August 2011, Asset Optimization Branch Program Manager; Command Civil Engineer Inspector; Facilities Support & Emergency Services Branch Chief, Office of the Inspector General, Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Ill.
6. September 2011–July 2018, Base Civil Engineer; Commander, 172nd Civil Engineer Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
7. July 2018–January 2023, Commander, 172nd Mission Support Group, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
8. January 2023–Present, Vice Wing Commander, 172nd Airlift Wing, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Bronze Star

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Force Achievement Medal

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with "V" Device and six oak leaf clusters

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award

National Defense Service Medal with bronze star

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Afghanistan Campaign Medal

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Air Force Overseas Ribbon Short with oak leaf cluster

Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border and three oak leaf clusters

Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with three oak leaf clusters

Armed Forces Reserve Medal with silver hour glass

Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with bronze star

Air Force Training Ribbon

STATE AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Mississippi War Medal

Mississippi Longevity Medal with three oak leaf clusters

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant, June 2, 1999

First Lieutenant, June 2, 2001

Captain, June 2, 2003

Major, Dec. 1, 2008

Lieutenant Colonel, April 21, 2013

Colonel, July 1, 2018

(CURRENT AS OF MARCH 2023)