

COLONEL PATRICK W. KIRBY

Colonel Patrick W. Kirby is the 172nd Medical Group Commander, Thompson Field, Jackson, Mississippi. He is responsible for managing, planning and programming all medical resources required to operate wing-level programs including bio-environmental, public health, drug reduction, individual medical readiness, and aerospace medicine. His group is responsible for ensuring the medical readiness of all Airman assigned to the Wing's fourteen local and geographically separated units.

Colonel Kirby enlisted in the Mississippi Air National Guard in 1989 as an RF-4C avionics technician. In 1991, he transferred to Key Field Air National Guard Base, Meridian, Mississippi, to perform maintenance on the KC-135. After graduating from nursing school in 1993, Col. Kirby received a direct commission as a Flight Nurse and was assigned to the 183rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Jackson, Mississippi. A veteran flight nurse, Col. Kirby has flown over 25 combat missions in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In 2008, Col. Kirby transitioned to the 172nd Medical Group to serve as a clinical nurse. Prior to assuming his current position, Col. Kirby served as the Chief Nurse Executive of the 172nd Medical Group. A 30-year traditional guardsman, Colonel Kirby is concurrently employed as a trust and estate lawyer in Gulfport, Mississippi.



EDUCATION

1993 Bachelor of Science in Nursing, William Carey University, Gulfport, Miss.
1989 Bachelor of Science, Biology, Millsaps College, Jackson, Miss.
2002 Juris Doctorate, Loyola University School of Law, New Orleans, La.
2005 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
2015 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Jan 1990 – Jan 1991, 81st Training Wing, Keesler AFB, Texas
2. Jan 1991 – December 1994, Avionics Technician, 186th Air Refueling Wing, Meridian, Miss.
3. December 1994 – June 2008, 183rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
4. June 2008 – Present, 172nd Medical Group, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal
Air Force Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters
Combat Readiness Medal with oak leaf clusters
Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters
National Defense Service Medal with bronze star
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Armed Forces Service Medal with bronze star
Humanitarian Service Medal
Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal
Air Force Longevity Service with oak leaf cluster
Armed Forces Reserve Medal with silver hour glass
USAF NCO PME Graduate Ribbon
Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (Pistol)
Air Force Training Ribbon

STATE AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Louisiana Emergency Service Medal
Mississippi Magnolia Medal
Mississippi War Medal
Mississippi Emergency Service Medal
Mississippi Service School Medal with two clusters
Mississippi Longevity Medal with cluster

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant, Dec. 3, 1994
First Lieutenant, June 3, 1996
Captain, June 7, 1998
Major, June 13, 2002
Lieutenant Colonel, Sep. 22, 2011
Colonel, Feb. 16, 2017

(CURRENT AS OF MAY 2023)