



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL LAURA L. ODOM

Col. Laura L. Odom is the Commander, 172nd Mission Support Group, Thompson Field, Jackson, Mississippi. She is responsible for 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. She is responsible for directing and managing all infrastructure operations and base support functions at Thompson Field Air National Guard Base including crash/fire/rescue; disaster preparedness; environmental management; personnel; communications and computer systems; logistics plans, programs and readiness; base supply; transportation; vehicle maintenance; contracting; security forces; base services; and fuels management.

Col. Odom was commissioned through Officer's Training School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, in December 1996. Subsequently, she attended Air Battle Manager training at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, and then proceeded to a flying assignment as an Airborne Weapons Officer on the mission crew of the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System aircraft, Robins AFB, Georgia. In 2000, after completing four years of active duty, Col. Odom transitioned to the Georgia

Air National Guard, becoming a Command Post Officer in the 116th Bomb Wing, Robins AFB, Georgia. With the formation for the first Total Force Wing converting the 116th Bomb Wing to the 116th Air Control Wing, Col. Odom returned to flying. In 2004, she upgraded to Sensor Management Officer and then quickly to Instructor SMO. In 2007, Col. Odom moved to the Mississippi Air National Guard, where she became a Command Post Officer in the 172nd Airlift Wing, Thompson Field, Jackson, Mississippi. Soon after, she attended Logistics Officer training, earning the title of Logistics Readiness Officer, and ultimately the Logistics Readiness Squadron Commander. During her career, Col. Odom has participated in several operational deployments including Operations Desert Focus, Allied Force, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Prior to assuming her current position, she was the Mississippi Air National Guard Director of Staff – Air, where she served as the primary advisor to the Commander, Mississippi Air National Guard, regarding the oversight and support of the 2,500 Airmen assigned to the state's two flying wings and combat readiness training center.



EDUCATION

- 1996 Bachelor of Science in Biology, Chemistry Minor, Duke University, Durham, N.C.
- 2003 Squadron Officers School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., by correspondence
- 2008 Master of Arts in Teaching Secondary Science, Western Governors University, Salt Lake City, Utah
- 2008 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2012 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2014 Advanced Joint Professional Military Education, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. December 1996–September 1997, Air Battle Management, 325th Training Squadron, Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.





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2. September 1997–April 1998, Airborne Weapons Officer, 93rd Training Squadron, Robins AFB, Ga.
3. April 1998–December 2000, Airborne Weapons Officer, 12th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, Robins AFB, Ga.
4. December 2000–October 2002, Command Post Officer, 116th Bomb Wing, Robins AFB, Ga.
5. October 2002–November 2004, Airborne Weapons Officer, 12th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, Robins AFB, Ga.
6. November 2004–June 2007, Sensor Management Officer, 12th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, Robins AFB, Ga.
7. June 2007–April 2008, Command Post Officer, 172nd Airlift Wing, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
8. April 2008–December 2010, Logistics Readiness Officer, 172nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
9. December 2010–March 2013, Commander, 172nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
10. March 2013–January 2014, Inspector General, 172nd Airlift Wing, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
11. January 2014–September 2019, Chief of Staff, 172nd Airlift Wing, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
12. October 2019–February 2023, Director of Staff, Mississippi Air National Guard, Jackson, Miss.
13. March 2023–Present, Commander, 172nd Mission Support Group, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Air Battle Manager

Flight hours: more than 1250 hours

Aircraft flown (Mission Crew): E-8C

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster

Air Medal

Air and Space Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Army Commendation Medal

Air and Space Outstanding Unit Award with eight oak leaf clusters

Air Force Reserves Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

National Defense Service Medal

Kosovo Campaign Medal

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Armed Forces Service Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal

Air and Space Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border and oak leaf cluster

Coast Guard Special Operations Service Ribbon

Air and Space Longevity Service with two oak leaf clusters

Armed Forces Reserve medal with one hourglass device and two "M" devices

Air Force Training Ribbon

NATO Medal

STATE AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Georgia Special Operations Ribbon

Mississippi Emergency Service Medal

Mississippi Service School Medal

Mississippi Longevity Medal

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Life member, National Guard Association of the United States

Life member, National Guard Association of Mississippi





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EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant Dec. 6, 1996

First Lieutenant Dec. 6, 1998

Captain Dec. 6, 2000

Major Dec. 10, 2005

Lieutenant Colonel June 9, 2011

Colonel Sept. 30, 2020

(Current as of May 2024)

