



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL LYNN E. COLE

Colonel Lynn E. Cole is Vice Wing Commander, 172d 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 172d Airlift Wing's Vice Commander, Colonel Cole directs the day to day operations, maintenance, and support of the Wing's nine assigned C-17 Globemaster III aircraft. The 172d 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.

In January 1986, Colonel Cole enlisted in the United States Air Force as an Aircraft Maintenance Specialist. After graduating technical school in May 1986, he was stationed at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. with the 14th Operations Group as a T-37/38 Crew Chief. In January 1990, Colonel Cole took advantage of the Palace Front program, and transferred to the 172d Airlift Wing, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss., as a C-141 Starlifter crew chief. In May 1996, he received his commission from the Academy of Military Science, as an aircraft maintenance officer. He served in various positions in logistics, finance and the wing staff and has commanded at the flight and group levels. He has participated in Operation's DESERT SHIELD, DESERT STORM, ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. Prior to his current assignment, the colonel served as the 172d Maintenance Group Commander.



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EDUCATION

- 1986 Aircraft Maintenance Specialist, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas
- 1994 Associate of Applied Science Degree, Aircraft Maintenance Technology, Community College of the Air Force
- 1995 Bachelor of Business Administration, Mississippi State University, Starkville
- 1995 Associate of Arts, Liberal Arts, East Mississippi Community College, Scooba
- 2001 Master of Business Administration, William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Miss.
- 2001 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2007 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2010 Reserve Component National Security Course, National Defense University, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.
- 2011 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2014 Inspector General Training Course, National Training Center, Lansdown, Va.
- 2015 Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Level IV Antiterrorism Executive Training Course, Falls Church, Va.
- 2015 U.S. Air Force CPI Green Belt Training Course, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
- 2016 U.S. Air Force Senior Leaders Mission Generation Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. January 1986–February 1986, Student, Basic Military Training, Lackland AFB, Texas
2. February 1986–May 1988, Student, Aircraft Maintenance Specialist, Sheppard AFB, Texas

3. May 1986–June 1988, T-37/38 Crew Chief, 14th Operations Group, Columbus AFB, Miss.
4. June 1988–January 1990, C-141 Crew Chief, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron, Charleston AFB, S.C.
5. January 1990–April 1996, C-141 Crew Chief, 172nd Aircraft Generation Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
6. April 1996–May 1996, Student, Academy of Military Science, McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn.
7. May 1996–December 2002, Maintenance Officer, 172nd Aircraft Generation Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
8. December 2002–October 2003, Executive Support Officer, 172nd Logistics Group, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
9. October 2003–January 2004, Maintenance Officer, 172nd Maintenance Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
10. January 2004–January 2007, Logistics Plans Officer, 172d Logistics Readiness Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
11. January 2007–August 2010, Comptroller, 172d Airlift Wing, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
12. August 2010–December 2010, Commander, 172d Comptroller Flight, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
13. December 2010–June 2014, Chief of Staff, 172d Airlift Wing, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
14. June 2014–December 2014, Inspector General, 172d Airlift Wing, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
15. December 2014–December 2019, Commander, 172d Maintenance Group, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
16. December 2019–Present, Vice Wing Commander, 172d Airlift Wing, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters
 Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster
 Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters
 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with twelve oak leaf clusters
 Air Force Good Conduct Medal with oak leaf cluster
 Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters
 National Defense Service Medal with bronze star
 Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
 Armed Forces Service Medal
 Humanitarian Service Medal
 Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon
 Coast Guard Special Operations Service Ribbon
 Air Force Longevity Service with seven oak leaf clusters
 Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M device silver hour glass
 United States Air Force NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon
 Air Force Training Ribbon
 Coast Guard Special Operations Service Ribbon

STATE AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Louisiana Emergency Service Medal
 Mississippi Medal of Efficiency
 Mississippi War Medal with oak leaf cluster
 Mississippi Emergency Service Medal
 Mississippi Service School Medal with two oak leaf clusters
 Mississippi Longevity Medal with oak leaf cluster

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

National Guard Association of United States
 National Guard Association of the Mississippi

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant, May 23, 1996
 First Lieutenant, May 23, 1998
 Captain, May 23, 2000
 Major, May 25, 2004
 Lieutenant Colonel, May 27, 2008
 Colonel, Jan. 1, 2015

(Current as of 7 February 2020)