



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL BRITT A. WATSON

Col. Britt A. Watson is the Wing Commander, 172nd Airlift Wing, Thompson Field, Jackson, Mississippi. He directs the operations, maintenance and support of the Wing's 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 172nd Airlift Wing is comprised of more than fifteen local and 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.

Col. Watson received his commission in the Marine Corps from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1996. He joined the Air National Guard in 2009, where he has served in a variety of positions including command at the squadron and group level. He is a command pilot with more than 4,000 hours and has deployed in four different aircraft to various overseas locations, to include flying missions in Operation Enduring Freedom. Prior to assuming his current position, the colonel served as the Vice Wing Commander and Air Commander, 186th Air Refueling Wing, Key Field Air National Guard Base, Meridian, Mississippi.



EDUCATION

1996 Bachelor of Science, Systems Engineering, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1997 The Basic School, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.
2005 Expeditionary Warfare School, MCB Quantico, Va.
2008 Marine Corps Command and Staff College, Quantico, Va., by seminar
2016 Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., by correspondence

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 1996–April 1997, Student, The Basic School, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.
2. April 1997–September 1997, Student, Aviation Preflight Indoctrination, Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla.
3. September 1997–May 1998, Student, Primary Flight Training, Training Squadron 27, NAS Corpus Christi, Texas
4. May 1998–June 1999, Student, Intermediate Strike Training, Training Squadron 19, NAS Meridian, Miss.
5. June 1999–March 2000, Student, Advanced Strike Training, Training Squadron 21, NAS Kingsville, Texas
6. March 2000–April 2001, Student, Fleet Replacement Squadron, Fighter/Attack Squadron 125, NAS Lemoore, Calif.
7. April 2001–July 2004, Pilot, Forward Air Controller (Airborne), Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C.
8. July 2004–May 2005, Student, Expeditionary Warfare School, MCB Quantico, Va.
9. May 2005–August 2005, Platoon Commander, Officer Candidate School, MCB Quantico, Va.
10. August 2005–March 2009, Instructor Pilot, Training Squadron 7, NAS Meridian, Miss.
11. May 2009–February 2014, Instructor Pilot, 186th Air Refueling Wing, Key Field ANGB, Miss.

ASSIGNMENTS CON'T

12. February 2014–November 2014, Program Manager, Mississippi RC-26 Program, and Commander, 186th Operations Support Squadron, Key Field ANGB, Miss.
13. November 2014–February 2018, Commander, 238th Air Support Operations Squadron, Key Field ANGB, Miss.
14. March 2018–February 2019, Commander, 186th Maintenance Group, Key Field ANGB, Miss.
15. February 2019–February 2022, Vice Wing Commander, 186 ARW, Key Field ANGB, Miss.
16. February 2022–Present, Wing Commander, 172nd Airlift Wing, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: command pilot

Flight Hours: more than 4,000, including more than 300 combat hours

Aircraft Flown: T-34C, T-2, T-45, F/A-18C/D, MC-12W, C-27J, RC-26B, KC-135R and C-17A

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster

Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster

Army Commendation Medal

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

Air Force Achievement Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 24, 1996

First Lieutenant May 24, 1998

Captain June 1, 2000

Major June 1, 2006

Lieutenant Colonel Nov. 20, 2011

Colonel March 1, 2018

(CURRENT AS OF MARCH 2023)