



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL JOHN L. WILKINSON

Colonel John L. Wilkinson is the 172d Operations Group Commander, Thompson Field, Jackson, Mississippi. He is directly responsible for global strategic and tactical airlift operations supporting National Command Authority objectives. Colonel Wilkinson also provides operational combat leadership capability and oversight for more than 23 aircrews, nine aeromedical evacuation crews, a geographically separated unit and the standardization and evaluation function in the operation of the 172d Airlift Wing's C-17A aircraft.

Colonel Wilkinson was commissioned through the Academy of Military Science in July 1996 and started his flying career at Vance Air Force Base, Okla. He is a Command/Evaluator pilot with more than 4500 total flying hours in the C-141B/C and C-17A aircraft. Colonel Wilkinson has served in Operations Northern/Southern Watch, Noble Eagle, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. He has broad experience working throughout the wing. Prior to assuming his current position, Colonel Wilkinson served as 172d Operations Group, Deputy Commander, responsible for ensuring availability of highly proficient combat mission aircrews to meet federal and state response requirements.

EDUCATION

1992 Bachelor of Science Degree, Aerospace Engineering, Mississippi State University, Starkville, Miss.

1997 Undergraduate Pilot Training, Vance Air Force Base, Enid, Okla.

2007 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence

2014 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence

2019 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence



ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 1996–September 1997, Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Vance Air Force Base, Okla.
2. September 1997–January 1998, Student, C-141B Formal Training Unit, Altus AFB, Okla.
3. September 1998–September 1999, C141B Copilot, 183d Airlift Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
- 3 September 1999–September 2001, First Pilot, 183 Airlift Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
- September 2001–September 2002, Aircraft Commander, 183 Airlift Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
3. September 2002–July 2003, Executive Officer, 183 Airlift Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
4. July 2003–August 2003, Student, C-17A Formal Training Unit, Altus AFB, Okla.
5. September 2003–July 2004, Chief of Scheduling, 183 Airlift Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
6. August 2004–January 2006, Maintenance Quality Officer, 172 Maintenance Group, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
7. January 2006–January 2008, Current Operations, 172 Operational Support Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
8. January 2008–October 2008, Chief of Training, 183 Airlift Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
9. November 2008–September 2011, Chief Pilot, 183 Airlift Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
10. October 2011–Sep 2014, Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, 172 OG, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
11. December 2014–July 2017, Director of Operations, 183 Airlift Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
12. August 2017–December 2020, Squadron Commander, 183 Airlift Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.

ASSIGNMENTS Cont'd

13. December 2020-March 2021, Deputy Commander, 172 Operations Group, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command/Evaluator Pilot

Flight hours: 4500

Aircraft flown: T-37, T-1A, C141B/C and C-17A

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster

Air Medal with oak leaf cluster

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Force Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters

AF Outstanding Unit Award with nine oak leaf clusters

Combat Readiness Medal

National Defense Service Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal

Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border

AF Longevity Service with three oak leaf clusters

Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 'M' Device with two oak leaf clusters

AF Training Ribbon

STATE AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Mississippi War Medal

Mississippi Emergency Service Medal

Mississippi Service School Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Mississippi Longevity Medal

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

National Guard Association of the United States, life member

National Guard Association of Mississippi, life member

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant, July 18, 1996

First Lieutenant, July 18, 1996

Captain, August 16, 2000

Major, July 27, 2007

Lieutenant Colonel, July 27, 2014

Colonel, March 04, 2021

(Current as of July 2021)