



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL JOHN L. WILKINSON

Col. John L. Wilkinson is the 172nd Operations Group Commander, Thompson Field, Jackson, Mississippi. He is directly responsible for global strategic and tactical airlift operations supporting National Command Authority objectives. Col. 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 172nd Airlift Wing's C-17A Globemaster III aircraft.

Col. Wilkinson was commissioned through the Academy of Military Science in July 1996 and started his flying career at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma. He is a Command/Evaluator pilot with more than 4500 total flying hours in the C-141B/C and C-17A aircraft. Col. Wilkinson has served in Operations Northern/Southern Watch, Noble Eagle, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. He has broad experience working throughout the wing as Executive Officer, Chief of Scheduling, and Director of Operations. Prior to assuming his current position, Col. Wilkinson served as 172nd 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– July 2004, Aircraft Commander, 183rd Airlift Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
4. August 2004-January 2006, Maintenance Quality Officer, 172nd Maintenance Group, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
5. January 2006-January 2008, Current Operations, 172nd Operational Support Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
6. January 2008-September 2011, Chief of Training/Pilot, 183rd Airlift Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
7. October 2011-Sep 2014, Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, 172nd Operations Group, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.
8. December 2014- December 2020, Squadron Commander, 183rd Airlift Squadron, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.

ASSIGNMENTS Cont'd

9. December 2020-Present, Commander, 172nd Operations Group, Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command/Evaluator Pilot

Flight hours: more than 4,500

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

Air Force 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

Air Force Longevity Service with three oak leaf clusters

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

Air Force 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 with three oak leaf clusters

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, Aug. 16, 2000

Major, July 27, 2007

Lieutenant Colonel, July 27, 2014

Colonel, March 04, 2021

(CURRENT AS OF MARCH 2023)