



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL CHRIS S. COLLINS

Colonel Chris S. Collins is Vice Commander of the 155th Air Refueling Wing at the Lincoln Municipal Airport, Lincoln, Nebraska. The mission statement for the 155th Air Refueling Wing is to “deliver fuel, cargo, people and support worldwide”. The wing provides global reach airpower and deploys expeditionary forces in support of worldwide combat contingency and humanitarian requirements. The wing operates eight KC-135R aircraft performing air refueling, airlift and aero-medical evacuation missions supporting U.S. and coalition contingency operations and the U.S. Strategic Command strategic deterrence mission.



Colonel Collins joined the Nebraska Air National Guard in May of 1983 when he enlisted as a photo processing specialist in the 173rd Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in May of 1988 through the Academy of Military Science at Knoxville, Tennessee and attended Specialized Undergraduate Navigator Training (SUNT) at Mather AFB, California. He then completed RF-4C school at the RTU in Boise, Idaho as a Weapon Systems Officer (WSO), and returned to Lincoln to fly the RF-4C Phantom.

In 1993 he was selected to attend Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) at Columbus AFB, Mississippi and upon graduation from the KC-135R RTU at Castle AFB, California in 1994, he returned home to the 173rd Air Refueling Squadron to fly the KC-135R Stratotanker as a traditional guardsman. In 1997, he upgraded to Aircraft Commander. In 1999, Colonel Collins became a full-time Active Guard Reserve (AGR) member and has since held positions as Wing Plans Officer, Chief of Scheduling and Current Operations, Chief of Wing Plans, Chief of Tactics and Training, Flight Commander, Assistant Director of Operations, Director of Operations, 173rd Air Refueling Squadron Commander and Commander of the 155th Operations Group, Lincoln, Nebraska. He also serves as an Instructor and Evaluator pilot. Colonel Collins is a command pilot with more than 4000 hours flight time including combat and combat support in contingency operations: Allied Force, Joint Forge, Deliberate Guard, Decisive Endeavor, Northern Watch, Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

EDUCATION

1991 Bachelor of Science in Economics, University of Nebraska-Omaha, Omaha, NE
1996 Squadron Officer School in residence, Maxwell AFB, AL

EDUCATION cont

2003 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence

2004 Master of Business Administration, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

2006 Air War College, by correspondence

2006 Combat Aircrew Tactics Course, McGuire AFB, NJ

2011 Advanced Joint PME, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA

ASSIGNMENTS

1. September 1983 – September 1986, Photo Processing Specialist, 173rd Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Lincoln, NE

2. October 1986 – May 1988, Production Control Supervisor, 173rd Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Lincoln, NE

3. May 1988 – Feb 1989, student, Specialized Undergraduate Navigator Training, Mather AFB, CA

4. February 1989 – April 1989, student, WSO Fighter Lead-in Training, Holloman AFB, NM

5. May 1989 – December 1989, Student, RF- 4C Replacement Training Unit, 189th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Boise, ID

6. December 1989 – February 1993, RF- 4C Weapons Systems Officer, 173rd Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Lincoln, NE

7. February 1993 – February 1994, student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, 14th Flying Training Wing, Columbus AFB, MI

8. March 1994 – June 1994, student, KC-135R Replacement Training Unit, 93rd Air Refueling Squadron, Castle AFB, CA

9. June 1994 – November 1998, KC-135R Combat Ready Pilot, 173rd Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Lincoln, NE

10. November 1998 – December 2003, Wing Plans Officer, 155th Operation Support Flight, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Lincoln, NE

11. December 2003 – January 2005, Chief of Current Operations, 155th Operation Support Flight, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Lincoln, NE

12. January 2005 – March 2006, Chief of Wing Plans, 155th Operation Support Flight, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Lincoln, NE

13. March 2006 – March 2007, Chief of Training and Tactics, 155th Operation Support Flight, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Lincoln, NE

14. March 2007 – April 2008, Flight Commander/Asst. Director of Operations, 173rd Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Lincoln, NE

15. April 2008 – September 2010, Director of Operations, 173rd Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Lincoln, NE

16. September 2010 – July 2011, Commander, 173rd Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Lincoln, NE

17. July 2011 – September 2014, Commander, 155th Operations Group, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Lincoln, NE

18. September 2014 – Present, Vice Commander, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Lincoln, NE

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight Hours: Over 4,000

Aircraft Flown: T-37, T-38, AT-38B, T-43, RF-4C, KC-135R/E

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster
Air Medal
Aerial Achievement Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal
Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters
Joint Meritorious Unit Award
Meritorious Unit Award with oak leaf cluster
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with nine oak leaf clusters
Combat Readiness Medal with seven oak leaf clusters
Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster
National Defense Service Medal with service star
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
Kosovo Campaign Medal
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Armed Forces Services Medal
Humanitarian Service Medal
Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal
Air Force Overseas Ribbon Short
Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon
Air Force Longevity Service Award with five oak leaf clusters
Armed Forces Reserve Medal with two 'M' devices
Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with service star
Air Force Training Ribbon with oak leaf cluster

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 16, 1988
First Lieutenant May 16, 1991
Captain June 11, 1993
Major August 15, 1999
Lieutenant Colonel August 15, 2006
Colonel August 20, 2012

(Current as of September 2014)