



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL CHRISTOPHER L. HESSE

Col. Christopher L. Hesse serves as the Chief of Staff - Joint Staff, Joint Force Headquarters, Lincoln, Nebraska. JFHQ's mission is to provide mission ready units available to deploy globally and to provide capabilities to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Nebraska and the homeland.

Col. Hesse joined the Nebraska Air National Guard in 1996 after graduating from the University of Kansas with a degree in Aerospace Engineering. He was commissioned in November of 1997 via the Academy of Military Science (AMS). Following AMS he attended Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training (SUPT) at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, where he graduated in 1999. Following SUPT he attended the KC-135R Initial Qualification Course at Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma, and graduated in the fall of 1999. Col. Hesse then returned to Lincoln to serve as a traditional guardsman flying the KC-135R. Col. Hesse became a full-time technician in the fall of 2000 and he served as current operations officer, deputy chief of standards and evaluations, chief of training, and assistant flight commander. In the summer of 2008, he attended the KC-135R Weapons Instructor Course located at Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington, graduating in December of 2008. Upon his return to Lincoln, Col. Hesse served as the chief of tactics, assistant director of operations, director of operations and commander of the 173rd Air Refueling Squadron. In the spring of 2016, he assumed command of the 155th Maintenance Group and in 2021 moved to Joint Force Headquarters to serve as the Director of Staff - Air. He has participated in many combat and contingency operations including, Northern Watch, Joint Forge, Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, and Iraqi Freedom.



EDUCATION

1994 Bachelor of Science, Aerospace Engineering, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas
2004 Squadron Officer School, by correspondence
2008 Weapons Instructor Course, Distinguished Graduate, Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington
2010 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
2013 Air War College, by correspondence
2014 Advanced Joint Professional Military Education, by correspondence
2015 Master of Arts, Leadership Studies, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia

ASSIGNMENTS

1. February 1998-February 1999, Student, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, Distinguished Graduate, 14FTW Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.
2. March 1999-July 1999, KC-135R Qualification Training, Distinguished Graduate, Altus Air Force Base, Okla.
3. July 1999-October 2000, KC-135R Combat Ready Pilot, 173rd Air Refueling Squadron, Lincoln, Neb.
4. October 2000-June 2005, Current Operations Officer, 155th Operations Support Flight, Lincoln, Neb.
5. June 2005-April 2008, Deputy Chief of Stand/Eval, 155th Operations Group, Lincoln, Neb.
6. April 2008-May 2009, Assistant Flight Commander, 173rd Air Refueling Squadron, Lincoln, Neb.
7. May 2009-October 2012, Chief of Tactics, 155th Operations Support Flight, Lincoln, Neb.
8. October 2012-October 2014, Director of Operations, 173rd Air Refueling Squadron, Lincoln, Neb.
9. October 2014-May 2016, Commander, 173rd Air Refueling Squadron, Lincoln, Neb.
10. May 2016-August 2021, Commander, 155th Maintenance Group, Lincoln, Neb.
11. August 2021-June 2022, Director of Staff-Air, Joint Force Headquarters, Lincoln, Neb.
12. July 2022-Present, Chief of Staff-Joint Staff, Joint Force Headquarters, Lincoln, Neb.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot
Flight Hours: Over 4800
Aircraft Flown: T-37, T-1, KC-135R

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal
Air Medal with oak leaf cluster
Aerial Achievement Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal
Air Force Achievement Medal
Joint Meritorious Unit Award with oak leaf cluster
Meritorious Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with three oak leaf clusters
Combat Readiness Medal with five oak leaf clusters
National Defense Service Medal
Armed Forces Expeditionary medal
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant Nov. 20, 1997
First Lieutenant Nov. 20, 1999
Captain Dec. 9, 2001
Major Dec. 2, 2006
Lieutenant Colonel May 6, 2012
Colonel Sept. 15, 2016

(Current as of Dec 2021)