



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL BIF B. FRENCH

Colonel Bif B. French is the Vice Wing Commander, 147th Attack Wing, Texas Air National Guard, Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base, Houston, Texas. He assists the Commander in organizing, training, equipping, and maintaining combat-ready forces for rapid deployment and employment on wartime missions for 1,085 guardsmen in support of Joint Terminal Attack, MQ-9 Reaper, Surveillance and Reconnaissance and Expeditionary Combat Support missions.

Colonel French received his commission in the Air Force as a distinguished graduate through Reserve Officers' Training Corps in 2001. In 2003, he completed Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus Air Force Base (AFB), Mississippi, and KC-135R Initial Qualification Course at Altus AFB, Oklahoma. In 2005, Colonel French, then only a First Lieutenant, was selected to attend the KC-135R Aircraft Commander course at Altus AFB, Oklahoma, and returned in 2007 to complete the KC-135R Certified Flight Instructor course. In the spring of 2007, he was hand selected to serve as the 92nd Air Refueling Wing's Operations Team Chief for Air Mobility Command's RODEO and was later selected for the Phoenix Horizon program. He was assigned to fly the C-130J at Little Rock AFB. In 2010, he upgraded to C-130J Instructor Pilot and was chosen to attend the Advanced Airlift Tactics and Training Course, St. Joseph, Mo. In 2011, he upgraded to C-130J Evaluator pilot and served as the Director of Staff for the 19th Operations Group. Later that year, he was assigned to the USAF Expeditionary Center, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JBMDL), where he served as both the Mobility and Expeditionary Operations Branch Chief and the Chief Executive Officer for the Mobility Operations School. Colonel French separated from active duty in 2013 and joined the Texas Air National Guard, Ellington Field JRB.



Prior to his current position, he served as the Deputy Commander, 147th Operations Group (OG), 147th Attack Wing, Texas Air National Guard, Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base (JRB), Houston, Texas.

EDUCATION

- 1998 Associates of Science, Western Wyoming Community College, Rock Springs, Wyo.
- 2001 Bachelor of Arts, Communication, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyo.
- 2007 Air Mobility Command High Flight Professional Development Program, Scott Air Force Base (AFB), Ill,
- 2007 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2011 Masters in Aeronautical Science, Aviation/Aerospace Operations, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Worldwide
- 2012 Academic Instructor Course, USAF Expeditionary Center, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.
- 2012 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2019 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2021 National Security Studies Management Course, Syracuse University, N.Y.
- 2023 National War College, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington D.C.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. January 2002-December 2003, Undergraduate Pilot Training, 14th Flying Training Wing, Columbus AFB, Miss.
2. January 2004-December 2007, KC-135 Instructor Pilot/Chf Exec Officer, 92d Operations Group, Fairchild AFB, Wash.
3. January 2008-April 2011, C-130J Evaluator Pilot and Dir of Staff, 19th Operations Group, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
4. May 2012-September 2013, Mob Ops Branch Chf, Exp Ops Branch Chf, Chf Exec Officer, USAFEC, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.
5. September 2013-September 2018, Flight Commander and MQ-1B Instructor Pilot, 111th Attack Squadron, Ellington Field JRB, Tex.
6. September 2018-December 2018, Ops Officer, 147th Operations Support Squadron, Ellington Field JRB, Texas
7. January 2019-April 2019, Commander, 147th Operations Support Squadron, Ellington Field JRB, Tex.
8. April 2019-December 2019, Commander, 111th Attack Squadron, Ellington Field JRB, Tex.
9. December 2019-October 2020, Deputy Commander, 147th Operations Group & Commander, 111th Attack Squadron, Ellington Field JRB, Tex.
10. October 2020-July 2022, Deputy Commander, 147th Operations Group
11. July 2022-June 2023, Student National War College, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington D.C.
12. June 2023-Present, Vice Wing Commander, 147th Attack Wing, Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base, Texas

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight Hours: More than 4500, including 1905 Combat and 1015 Combat Support Aircraft flown: T-37B, T-1A, KC-135R/T, C-130J, MQ-1B, MQ-9A, RC26B

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Air Medal with ten oak leaf clusters
Aerial Achievement Medal with twelve oak leaf clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal
Humanitarian Service Medal
Remote Combat Effects Campaign Medal with three service stars
Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal
Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (Pistol)
Texas Medal of Merit
Texas Faithful Service Medal

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Flight leader and life member, Order of Daedalians
Life member, Military Officers Association of America
Life member, National Guard Association of Texas
Life member, National Rifle Association
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant January 5, 2002
First Lieutenant January 5, 2004
Captain January 5, 2006
Major January 1, 2012
Lieutenant Colonel December 1, 2018
Colonel April 4, 2023

(Current as of Jun 2023)