



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL THOMAS O. PEMBERTON

Colonel Thomas O. Pemberton is commander of the 434th Air Refueling Wing, Grissom Air Reserve Base, Indiana. He commands the largest KC-135R Stratotanker unit in the Air Force Reserve Command. The 434th ARW is manned by nearly 1,900 military, civilian and contractor personnel and equipped with two flying squadrons operating 16 aircraft. The 434th ARW also has a unique role supporting both the Single Integrated Operational Plan and conventional tanker missions.

Colonel Pemberton was commissioned through the United States Air Force Officer Training School and entered active duty in 1985. He completed Undergraduate Navigator Training at Mather AFB, Calif., and KC-135 Combat Crew Training at Castle AFB, Calif. Following navigator training, he completed assignments at K I Sawyer AFB, Mich. and, Castle AFB, Calif. He also deployed and flew in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Colonel Pemberton was selected to serve as Offensive Systems Officer in the B-1B at Dyess AFB, Texas in 1991.

Colonel Pemberton left active duty and joined the Air Force Reserve in 1993 and completed Undergraduate Pilot Training in February 1999. While serving as a traditional reservist, he was employed by US Airways Express in Dayton, Ohio serving as Director of Systems Control. He has been mobilized and deployed numerous times in support of Operations Northern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Additionally, he has deployed for multiple other contingencies in various worldwide locations.



EDUCATION

1985 Bachelor of Science in Communication & Computer Science, Manchester College, North Manchester, IN
1990 Squadron Officers School, Maxwell AFB, AL
2002 Masters of Aviation Science, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, FL
2003 Air Command and Staff School, by correspondence
2007 Air War College via correspondence
2008 Reserve Component National Security Course, National Defense University, Washington D.C.
2011 Advanced Joint PME, Joint Forces College, Norfolk, VA

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Jan 1986 – Aug 1986, Student, undergraduate navigator training, Mather AFB, California
2. Sep 1986 – Jan 1987, Student, KC-135 Combat Crew Training School, Castle AFB, California
3. Feb 1987 – Aug 1990, Instructor Navigator, 307th Air Refueling Squadron, K I Sawyer AFB, Michigan
4. Sep 1990 – Feb 1992, Evaluator Navigator, 924th Air Refueling Squadron, Castle AFB, California
5. Mar 1992 – Sep 1992, Student, B-1B offensive systems officer, Dyess AFB, Texas
6. Sep 1992 – Dec 1992, KC-135 Evaluator Navigator, 305th Air Refueling Wing, Grissom AFB, Indiana
7. Jan 1993 – Dec 1997, Instructor Navigator, 74th Air Refueling Squadron, Grissom ARB, Indiana

8. Jan 1998 – Feb 1999, Student, undergraduate pilot training, Laughlin AFB, Texas
9. Mar 1999 – Jun 1999, Student, KC-135 Combat Crew Training School, Altus AFB, Oklahoma
10. Jul 1999 – Oct 2002, Wing Plans Officer, 434th Operations Support Squadron, Grissom ARB, Indiana
11. Nov 2002 – Feb 2004, Chief of Tactics, 434th Operations Support Squadron, Grissom ARB, Indiana
12. Mar 2004 – Dec 2004, Chief, Mission Development, 434 Operations Support Squadron, Grissom ARB, Indiana
13. Jan 2005 – Nov 2005, Commander, 434th Operations Support Squadron, Grissom ARB, Indiana
14. Dec 2005 – Feb 2009, Director of Operations, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron, Grissom ARB, Indiana
15. Mar 2009 – Apr 2010, Deputy Commander, 434th Operations Group, Grissom ARB, Indiana
16. May 2010 – Apr 2013, Commander, 927th Operations Group, MacDill AFB, Florida
17. Apr 2013 – Sep 2014, Program Manager, RMG Det. 2, Scott AFB, Illinois
18. Oct 2014 – Nov 2015, Commander, RIO Det. 4, Scott AFB, Illinois
19. Nov 2015 – Jul 2018, Commander, 459th Operations Group, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland
20. Jul 2018 – Mar 2021, Commander, 514th Air Mobility Wing, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey
21. Mar 2021-present, Commander, 434th Air Refueling Wing, Grissom ARB, Indiana

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Ratings: command pilot, senior navigator

Flight Hours: more than 5,800

Aircraft flown: T-43, T-37, T-1A, KC-135, B-1B, C-17, KC-10

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit

Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster

Air Force Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster

Meritorious Unit Award

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with three oak leaf clusters and Valor device

Combat Readiness Medal with nine oak leaf clusters

National Defense Service Medal with bronze star

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with bronze star

Southwest Asia Service Medal with two bronze stars

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal

Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border and two oak leaf clusters

Air Force Longevity Service with two oak leaf clusters

Armed Forces Reserve Medal with one "M" device and hourglass device

Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with bronze star

Kuwait Liberation Medal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Kuwait Liberation Medal Government of Kuwait

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant December 17, 1985

First Lieutenant December 17, 1987

Captain December 17, 1989

Major March 6, 1997

Lieutenant Colonel October 6, 2003

Colonel February 1, 2010

(CURRENT AS OF MARCH 2021)