



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL CLIFFORD N. JAMES

Colonel Clifford N. James is the Commander, 117th Air Refueling Wing, Alabama Air National Guard, Birmingham, Alabama. As Wing Commander, Colonel James is responsible for training and equipping combat ready aircrews and support personnel to provide worldwide aerial refueling and airlift missions.

Colonel James enlisted in the 117th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing in May 1980. While enlisted, he served as a Photo Processing Specialist, Finance Clerk, and Data Automation Specialist and achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant. He received his commission through the Academy of Military Science in July 1983 and graduated from Undergraduate Pilot Training in August 1984 at Williams AFB, Phoenix, Arizona. Colonel James was assigned to the 106th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron flying the RF-4C until the unit converted to the KC-135R and became an Air Refueling Squadron in 1994. He has served as an evaluator pilot in both the RF-4C and the KC-135R, and went on to serve as both the 117th Operations Group Commander and the 117th Air Refueling Wing Vice Wing Commander.



Colonel James is a decorated pilot who accumulated 6 Air Medals and over 6,300 flying hours prior to accepting his current assignment.

EDUCATION:

1983 Bachelor of Computer and Informational Science, University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL.
1993 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL.
1996 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL.
2003 Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

ASSIGNMENTS:

May 1980 - Jan 1981, Basic Military Training, Lackland AFB, TX, OJT Birmingham, AL
Jul 1983 – Aug 1984, Student Pilot, Williams AFB, Chandler Arizona
Sep 1984 – Apr 1985, RF-4C Student Pilot, Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, Boise ID
Apr 1985—Aug 1985, RF-4C Pilot, 117th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing Student Flight, Birmingham, AL
Aug 1985 – Aug 1988, RF-4C Pilot, 106th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Birmingham, AL
Sep 1988—Aug 1993, RF-4C Instructor Pilot, 106th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Birmingham, AL
Jan 1991 - Jun 1992, Chief Of Training, 106th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Birmingham, AL
Jun 1992 - Sep 1994, Chief of Stan/Eval, Evaluator Pilot, 117th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, Birmingham, AL
Oct 1994-Present, KC-135R Instructor Pilot, 106th Air Refueling Squadron, Birmingham, AL
Feb 1995 – Apr 1998, Executive Officer, 117th Operations Group, Birmingham, AL
Apr 1995 – Jun 2000, KC-135R Evaluator Pilot, 117th Operations Group, Birmingham, AL
Jun 2000 – Jan 2002, Chief of Tactics & Training, 117th Operational Support Flt, Birmingham, AL
Jan 2002 – Aug 2005, Chief of Wing Plans, 117th Air Refueling Wing, Birmingham, AL
Aug 2005 – Jun 2008, Commander 117th Operational Support Flt, Birmingham, AL
Jun 2008 – Jul 2009, Commander 117th Operations Group Commander, Birmingham, AL

Aug 2009 – Mar 2012, Vice Commander, 117th Air Refueling Wing, Birmingham, AL
Mar 2012—Present, Commander, 117th Air Refueling Wing, Birmingham, AL
Mar - Jul 2015, Deputy Director Of Mobility Forces, Al Udeid, Qatar

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Command Pilot, Instructor
Flight hours: Approx 6,400
Aircraft Flown: T-37, T-38, RF-4C, KC-135R

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Legion of Merit
Meritorious Service Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters
Air Medal with 1 Silver Leaf Cluster
Aerial Achievement Medal with 1 Silver Leaf Cluster
Air Force Commendation Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster
Air Force Achievement Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster
Meritorious Unit Award
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters
Combat Readiness Medal with 2 Silver Leaf Clusters and 1 Oak Leaf Cluster
Air Reserve Meritorious Service Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster
National Defense Service Medal with 1 Bronze Star
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
Southwest Asia Service Medal with 1 Bronze Star
Kosovo Campaign Medal with 1 Bronze Star
Iraq Campaign Medal with 1 Bronze Star
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Armed Forces Service Medal with 1 Bronze Star
Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster
Air Force Overseas Ribbon Short
Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border and 1 Oak Leaf Cluster
Air Force Longevity Service with 1 Silver Leaf Cluster and 2 Oak Leaf Clusters
Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 3 'M' Devices and 1 Gold Hour Glass
Air Force Training Ribbon with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster
Kuwait Liberation Medal Government of Kuwait
Alabama National Emergency Service Medal and Service Medal
Alabama Faithful Service Medal with 1 Silver Leaf Cluster and 4 Oak Leaf Clusters
Alabama Active Duty Basic Training Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant	Jul 21, 1983
First Lieutenant	Jul 21, 1986
Captain	Jul 26, 1988
Major	Sep 16, 1995
Lieutenant Colonel	Jun 10, 2000
Colonel	Jul 2, 2008

(Current as of Jan 2017)