



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, Neb.
- 1996 Squadron Officer School in residence, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2003 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
- 2004 Master of Business Administration, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Neb.
- 2006 Air War College, by correspondence
- 2006 Combat Aircrew Tactics Course, McGuire AFB, N.J.
- 2011 Advanced Joint PME, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. September 1983 – September 1986, Photo Processing Specialist, 173 TRS, Lincoln, Neb.
2. October 1986 – May 1988, Production Control Supervisor, 173 TRS, Lincoln, Neb.
3. May 1988 – Feb 1989, Student, Specialized Undergraduate Navigator Training, Mather AFB, Calif.
4. February 1989 – April 1989, Student, WSO Fighter lead-in Training, Holloman AFB, N.M.

ASSIGNMENTS cont.:

5. May 1989 – December 1989, Student, RF-4C Replacement Training Unit, 189 TRS, Boise, Idaho
6. December 1989 – February 1993, RF-4C Weapons Systems Officer, 173 TRS, Lincoln, Neb.
7. February 1993 – February 1994, Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, 14 FTW, Columbus AFB, Miss.
8. March 1994 – June 1994, Student, KC-135R Replacement Training Unit, 93 ARS, Castle AFB, Calif.
9. June 1994 – November 1998, KC-135R Combat Ready Pilot, 173 ARS, Lincoln, Neb.
10. November 1998 – December 2003, Wing Plans Officer, 155 ARW, Lincoln, Neb.
11. December 2003 – January 2005, Chief of Current Operations, 155 OSF, Lincoln, Neb.
12. January 2005 – March 2006, Chief of Wing Plans, 155 ARW, Lincoln, Neb.
13. March 2006 – March 2007, Chief of Training and Tactics, 155 OSF, Lincoln, Neb.
14. March 2007 – April 2008, Flight Commander/Asst. Director of Operations, 173 ARS, Lincoln, Neb.
15. April 2008 – September 2010, Director of Operations, 173 ARS, Lincoln, Neb.
16. September 2010 – July 2011, Commander, 173 ARS, Lincoln, Neb.
17. July 2011 – September 2014, Commander, 155th Operations Group, Lincoln, Neb.
18. September 2014 – Present, Vice Commander, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Lincoln, Neb.

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:

Meritorious Service Medal with 1 oak leaf cluster

Air Medal

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal

Air Force Achievement Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters

Joint Meritorious Unit Award

Meritorious Unit Award with 1 oak leaf cluster

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with 9 oak leaf clusters

Combat Readiness Medal with 7 oak leaf clusters

Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with 1 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 5 oak leaf clusters

Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 2 'M' Devices

Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with service star

Air Force Training Ribbon with 1 oak leaf cluster

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

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

(Current as of September 2014)