



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL CHRISTOPHER L. HESSE

Colonel Christopher L. Hesse is the Commander of the 155th Air Refueling Wing, Air National Guard, Lincoln, Nebraska. He is responsible for organizing, training, and equipping four groups and ten squadrons executing worldwide aerial refueling, cargo, aeromedical evacuation, and humanitarian relief operations. It is his duty to ensure airmen are prepared and ready to deploy in support of domestic and federal missions.

Colonel 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 and attended Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, and the KC-135R Initial Qualification Course at Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma, before returning to Lincoln in 1999. He has held a variety of leadership positions with the 155th Air Refueling Wing including current operations officer, deputy chief of standards and evaluations, chief of training, chief of tactics, 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. Prior to assuming his current position, the colonel served as the Director of Staff, Joint Staff, Joint Force Headquarters, Lincoln, Nebraska.



Colonel Hesse has participated in numerous combat and contingency operations including, Northern Watch, Joint Forge, Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, and Iraqi Freedom. He is a command pilot with more than 5,000 flight hours, including 650 combat hours in the KC-135.

EDUCATION

1994 Bachelor of Science, Aerospace Engineering, University of Kansas, Lawrence
2004 Squadron Officer School, by correspondence
2008 Weapons Instructor Course, Distinguished Graduate, Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash.
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, W. Va
2023 Leadership in Homeland Security, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Executive Education

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 AFB, 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 - July 2022, Director of Staff-Air, Joint Force Headquarters, Lincoln, Neb.
12. July 2022 - October 2023, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, Joint Force Headquarters, Lincoln, Neb.
13. October 2023 - present, Commander, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Lincoln, Neb.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight Hours: Over 5,000

Aircraft Flown: T-37, T-1, KC-135R

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

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 three oak leaf clusters

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with seven oak leaf clusters

Combat Readiness Medal with eight 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 February 2024)