



# BIOGRAPHY



## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### COLONEL ROBERT V. LANKFORD

Colonel Robert V. Lankford is the Commander, 62nd Operations Group, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. He ensures the combat readiness of three C-17A Globemaster III airlift squadrons and an operations support squadron to conduct all aspects of C-17A operations, including mission planning, allocation, execution, command and control, training, scheduling, intelligence, aircrew flight equipment, weather, and airfield operations. The group has approximately 710 authorized personnel and 48 C-17A Globemaster III aircraft, providing safe and effective airlift, airdrop, and aeromedical evacuation capabilities for global combat and humanitarian contingencies. As the provider of the Prime Nuclear Airlift Forces, the 62nd OG holds the only squadron in the Department of Defense tasked to airlift nuclear and nuclear-related cargo. In addition, the 62nd OG serves as the primary active-duty unit in support of Operation DEEP FREEZE, partnering with Reserve, Guard, and civilian agencies to provide airlift support for the National Science Foundation's U.S. Antarctic Program.



Colonel Lankford was commissioned through the Air Force ROTC program at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1998. He has operational and combat experience as a C-17 Pilot, an Air Liaison Officer, and B-1B Weapons System Officer. Colonel Lankford also served as the Commander, 21st Airlift Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, California. In this capacity, he was responsible for the training and equipping of over 140 combat-ready personnel flying over 11,000 hours annually. Following Squadron Command he served as the Executive Officer to the Commander, Air Mobility Command. Before arriving at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Colonel Lankford was the Air Force Fellow at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. Colonel Lankford is a Senior Pilot with more than 2,000 flight hours in the C-17A and the B-1B.

#### EDUCATION

1998 Bachelor of Arts in History, UNC-Charlotte, Charlotte, NC

2005 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, AL 2006 Master of Aeronautical Science, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, FL

2010 Master of Military Operational Art and Science, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL

2011 Master of Military Art and Science, School of Advanced Military Studies, Fort Leavenworth, KS

2012 Air War College (Correspondence)

2019 Air Force Fellow, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

#### ASSIGNMENTS

1. September 1998 - April 2000, Student, Undergraduate Navigator Training, Pensacola Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL
2. April 2000 - May 2001, Student/B-1B Formal Training Unit (including Electronic Warfare Training at Randolph AFB, TX), 28th Bomb Squadron, Dyess AFB, TX
3. May 2001 - November 2002, B-1B WSO, 9th Bomb Squadron, Dyess AFB, TX
4. November 2002 - December 2003, Flight Commander, Air Liaison Officer, 682d Air Support Operations Squadron, Shaw AFB, SC
5. December 2003 - February 2005, Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, 14th Flying Training Wing, Columbus AFB, MS
6. February 2005 - July 2005, Student/C-17A Initial Qualification Course, 58th Airlift Squadron, Altus AFB, OK

7. July 2005 - June 2009, Flight Commander, Assistant Operations Officer, and Wing Executive Officer, C-17 Instructor Aircraft Commander, 14th Airlift Squadron, Charleston AFB, SC
8. June 2009 - June 2010, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL (Distinguished Graduate)
9. June 2010 - May 2011, Student, School of Advanced Military Studies, Fort Leavenworth, KS
10. June 2011 - May 2014, Joint Strategic Plans Officer, USEUCOM, Patch Barracks, Stuttgart Germany
11. May 2014 - June 2015, Chief of Safety, 60th Air Mobility Wing, Travis AFB, CA
12. June 2015 - April 2017, Commander, 21st Airlift Squadron, Travis AFB, CA
13. April 2017 - June 2018, Executive Officer to the Commander, Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, IL
14. June 2018 – July 2019, Air Force Fellow, The Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
15. July 2019- Present, Commander, 62d Operations Group, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA

### **FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Rating: Navigator, Senior Pilot

Flight Hours: Over 2,000 including more than 600 in combat

Aircraft flown: B-1B, C-17A

### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Bronze Star Medal

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Joint Service Achievement Medal

Air Force Achievement Medal

### **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant June, 1998

First Lieutenant June, 2000

Captain June, 2002

Major May, 2008

Lieutenant Colonel, Sep 2013

Colonel, March 2019

*(Current as of October 2019)*