



FACT SHEET



Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma



LOCATION

Located 90 miles north by northwest of Oklahoma City at Enid, Okla., with an elevation of 1,307 feet above sea level, Vance Air Force Base is the northernmost Undergraduate Pilot Training base in the Air Education and Training Command.

PHYSICAL FACILITIES

There are 130 buildings and 306 facilities on Vance, not including housing, as of November 2019. Additionally, Vance has 242 housing units - 141 officer family units, 101 enlisted family units, 309 unaccompanied units, 28 visitor units, and 5 temporary lodging units. Vance is currently replacing the outside runway, several runways, and recently completed construction of a new Air Traffic Control Tower. The base is approximately 2,122 acres, which includes fee-owned land and easements. Kegelman Auxiliary Field is 1,054 acres with seven buildings and 39 facilities, and is located near Jet, Okla.

BASE POPULATION

Vance has about 1,400 active duty and reserve military, as well as more than 1,500 family members, living in the local area. The base also employs more than 1,400 Federal civilian employees, non-appropriated fund civilian employees, contractors and private business employees. There are an estimated 3,000 retired military members in the local area.

ANNUAL FLYING HOURS AND SORTIES

The wing operates over 200 aircraft, flies more than 50,000 sorties annually and logs more than 74,000 flying hours in the T-1A Jayhawk, T-6A Texan II and T-38C Talon. More than 300 U.S. Air Force student pilots graduate from pilot training at Vance each year.

GENERAL REVIEW

The mission of the 71st Flying Training Wing is to deliver world-class U.S. pilots, develop resilient Airmen and families, deploy ready Airmen and demonstrate our “Vance Proud” culture. Vance is responsible for training Air Force student pilots for worldwide deployment and Aerospace Expeditionary Force support. The wing reports to Air Education and Training Command.

Pilot Training Transformation (PTT) is a new training curriculum, with Vance AFB being the first base to implement it at scale. PTT has two different tracks from which student pilots (SPs) will earn their wings.

The majority of SPs earn their wings through Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) 2.5, a three phase program that takes roughly 27 weeks. A new component of UPT 2.5 is the Immersive Training Device (ITD)—an affordable virtual reality (VR) aircraft simulator. These ITDs are embedded in the flying squadrons and provide unlimited high fidelity virtual training that enables students to consistently practice maneuvers outside the cockpit, thereby increasing the effectiveness and pace of each UPT sortie.

Phase I (preflight) is 44 days long and is split into two units: 147.3 hours of academic training and 72.9 hours of ground training. Academic training consists of aerospace physiology/human factors, T-6A Texan II systems, flying fundamentals, and an introduction to aerodynamics. Ground training includes emergency procedures, aircraft operating limitations, checklist usage, and local radio procedures. Immersive Training Devices (ITDs) are introduced in this phase and are used through the rest of the course.

Phase II (fundamental phase) and Phase III (mission phase) are accomplished over 90 training days in the T-6A Texan II, ITDs, and full simulators. Phase II introduces VFR flying, pattern work, unusual attitude recoveries, G-load training, departures/arrivals, navigation, low-level, and formation flying in isolation. Mission phase combines all of these items into profiles designed to challenge SPs and give them exposure to mission-realistic scenarios.

SPs graduate UPT 2.5 with 96 hours/60 sorties in the T-6 and 190.5 total hours in the T-6, ITDs, and ATDs. These winged aviators then proceed to train on either the T-1A Jayhawk (feeding into refueler/airlift) or the T-38C Talon (fighter/bomber).

Air Mobility Fundamentals (AMF-F) is a 75 day course where pilots fly the T-1A Jayhawk. The course entails 92 hours of academics, 13.6 hours of ground training, 32.8 sim hours, 9.6 hours in ITDs, and 42.8 flying hours over 24 sorties.

T-38 Pilot Training 2.5 is a course where pilots fly the T-38C Talon. The course takes 100 days for those bound for bombers and 108 for future fighter pilots. The course entails 110.2 hours of academics, 38.1 hours of ground training, 30.4 sim hours, 45.5 ITD hours, and 81.9 hours/68 sorties for bombers and 89.1 hours/74 sorties for fighters.

A smaller number of SPs will earn their wings through the “Accelerated Path to Wings” (XPW). XPW students will only fly the T-1A Jayhawk and earn their wings after approximately 7 months. These winged aviators will then feed into mobility/airlift airframes. Over this time SPs will complete 29 sims (73.4 hours) and 50 flights (89.7 hours). As with UPT 2.5, Vance AFB is the first installation to scale XPW, and the 71st FTW is coordinating with units at Randolph AFB to further refine the XPW syllabus.

Vance Air Force Base is named for Lt. Col. Leon R. Vance, a local World War II hero and Medal of Honor recipient. Originally a flight school that trained more than 9,000 pilots for the Army Air Corps between 1941 and 1945, the base was activated Jan. 13, 1948 within the Air Training Command of the newly formed Air Force.

Vance was the first base in AETC to have extensive civilian contractor support for base functions ranging from operational functions such as aircraft maintenance to support functions such as child care services. The support contract began in 1960 with award to Serv-Air. Northrop Worldwide Aircraft Services was awarded the follow-on contract when it was competed in 1972. On Feb. 1, 2001, the next contract was awarded to DynCorp Technical Services. Computer Sciences Corporation purchased Dyncorp Technical Services and assumed contract performance in 2005. Computer Sciences Corporation received award of the next contract in 2008. In 2013 Pacific Architects and Engineers purchased Computer Sciences Corporation and assumed performance of the contract. In December 2014 a separate contract for Flying Operations Support was issued to L-3 Communications Vertex Aerospace while Pacific Architects and Engineers continued support of Base Operating Support functions under a “bridge contract. A separate Base Operating Support contract was competed and awarded in May 2016 to Arctic Slope Regional Corporation Communications. In 2019 Vertex Aerospace was divested from L-3 Communications and assumed responsibility as Vertex Aerospace for performance of the Flying Operations Support contract.

POINT OF CONTACT

71st Flying Training Wing, Public Affairs Office, 246 Brown Parkway, Suite 206, Vance AFB, OK 73705-5028; (580) 213-5250



FACT SHEET



Vance AFB T-6A Texan II



MISSION

The T-6A Texan II is a single-engine, two-seat primary trainer designed to train Joint Primary Pilot Training, or JPPT, students in basic flying skills common to U.S. Air Force and Navy pilots.

FEATURES

Produced by Raytheon Aircraft, the T-6A Texan II is a military trainer version of Raytheon's Beech/Pilatus PC-9 Mk II.

Stepped-tandem seating in the single cockpit places one crewmember in front of the other, with the student and instructor positions being interchangeable. A pilot may also fly the aircraft alone from the front seat. Pilots enter the T-6A cockpit through a side-opening, one-piece canopy that has demonstrated resistance to bird strikes at speeds up to 270 knots.

The T-6A has a Pratt & Whitney Canada PT6A-68 turbo-prop engine that delivers 1,100 horsepower. Because of its excellent thrust-to-weight ratio, the aircraft can perform an initial climb of 3,100 feet (944.8 meters) per minute and can reach 18,000 feet (5,486.4 meters) in less than six minutes.

The aircraft is fully aerobatic and features a pressurized cockpit with an anti-G system, ejection

seat and an advanced avionics package with sunlight-readable liquid crystal displays.

BACKGROUND

Before being formally named in 1997, the T-6A was identified in a 1989 Department of Defense Trainer Aircraft Master Plan as the aircraft portion of the Joint Primary Aircraft Training System, or JPATS. The system includes a suite of simulators, training devices and a training integration management system.

On Feb. 5, 1996, Raytheon was awarded the JPATS acquisition and support contracts. The first operational T-6A arrived at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, in May 2000. The full rate production contract was awarded in December 2001. Air Force production of the aircraft was completed in 2010.

The T-6A is used to train JPPT students, providing the basic skills necessary to progress to one of four training tracks: the Air Force bomber-fighter or the Navy strike track, the Air Force airlift-tanker or Navy maritime track, the Air Force or Navy turboprop track and the Air Force-Navy helicopter track.

Instructor pilot training in the T-6A began at Randolph in 2000. JPPT began in October 2001 at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., and is currently at Columbus AFB, Miss., Vance AFB, Okla, and Laughlin AFB and Sheppard AFB in Texas.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Primary Function: Entry-level trainer in joint primary pilot training

Builder: Raytheon Aircraft Co.

Powerplant: 1,100 horsepower Pratt & Whitney Canada PT6A-68 turbo-prop engine

Wingspan: 33.5 feet (10.19 meters)

Length: 33.4 feet (10.16 meters)

Height: 10.7 feet (3.23 meters)

Speed: 320 miles per hour

Standard Basic Empty Weight: 6,500 pounds (2,955 kilograms)

Ceiling: 31,000 feet (9448.8 meters)

Range: 900 nautical miles (1,667 kilometers)

Crew: Two, student pilot and instructor pilot

Armament: None

Date Deployed: May 2000

Unit Cost: \$4.272 million

Inventory: Active force, 446 aircraft



FACT SHEET



Vance AFB T-1A Jayhawk



MISSION

The T-1A Jayhawk is a medium-range, twin-engine jet trainer used in the advanced phase of specialized undergraduate pilot training for students selected to fly airlift or tanker aircraft. It is also used to support navigator training for the U.S. Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and international services.

FEATURES

The swept-wing T-1A is a military version of the Beech 400A. It has cockpit seating for an instructor and two students and is powered by twin turbofan engines capable of an operating speed of 538 mph. The T-1A differs from its commercial counterpart with structural enhancements that provide for increased bird strike resistance and an additional fuselage fuel tank.

BACKGROUND

The first T-1A was delivered to Reese Air Force Base, Texas, in January 1992, and student training began in 1993. Vance AFB received its first T-1A in 1995.

Starting in 1993, undergraduate pilots who have graduated from their primary aircraft have proceeded to specialized training tailored for their follow-on assignments. The T-1A is used in advanced training for students identified to go into airlift or tanker aircraft. Those selected for bombers and fighters receive their advanced in the T-38.

The T-1A is used at Columbus AFB, Miss., Laughlin AFB, Texas, and Vance AFB, Okla. It is also used at Randolph AFB, Texas, to train instructor pilots and at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., for combat systems officer training.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Primary Function: Advanced trainer for airlift and tanker pilots

Builder: Raytheon Corp. (Beech)

Power Plant: Two Pratt and Whitney JT15D-5B turbofan engines

Thrust: 2,900 pounds each engine

Length: 48 feet, 5 inches (14.75 meters)

Height: 13 feet, 11 inches (4.24 meters)

Wingspan: 43 feet, 6 inches (13.25 meters)

Maximum Speed: 538 miles per hour (Mach .78)

Ceiling: 41,000 feet (12,500 meters)

Maximum Takeoff Weight: 16,100 pounds (7,303 kilograms)

Range: 2,222 nautical miles (2,900nm flying long-range cruise)

Armament: None

Crew: Three (pilot, co-pilot, instructor pilot)

Date Deployed: February 1992

Unit Cost: \$4.1 million

Inventory: Active force, 178; ANG, 0; Reserve, 0



FACT SHEET



Vance AFB T-38C Talon



MISSION

The T-38 Talon is a twin-engine, high-altitude, supersonic jet trainer used in a variety of roles because of its design, economy of operations, ease of maintenance, high performance and exceptional safety record. Air Education and Training Command is the primary user of the T-38 for joint specialized undergraduate pilot training. Air Combat Command, Air Force Materiel Command and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration also use the T-38A in various roles.

FEATURES

The T-38 has swept wings, a streamlined fuselage and tricycle landing gear with a steerable nose wheel. Two independent hydraulic systems power the ailerons, rudder and other flight control surfaces. Critical aircraft components are waist high and can be easily reached by maintenance crews.

The T-38C incorporates a "glass cockpit" with integrated avionics displays, head-up display and an electronic "no drop bomb" scoring system. The AT-38B has a gun sight and practice bomb dispenser.

The T-38 needs as little as 2,300 feet (695.2 meters) of runway to take off and can climb from sea level to nearly 30,000 feet (9,068 meters) in one minute. T-38s modified by the propulsion modernization program have approximately 19 percent more thrust, reducing takeoff distance by 9 percent.

The instructor and student sit in tandem on rocket-powered ejection seats in a pressurized, air-conditioned cockpit.

BACKGROUND

Air Education and Training Command uses the T-38C to prepare pilots for front-line fighter and bomber aircraft such as the F-15E Strike Eagle, F-15C Eagle, F-16 Fighting Falcon, B-1B Lancer, A-10 Warthog and F-22 Raptor.

The Talon first flew in 1959. More than 1,100 were delivered to the Air Force between 1961 and 1972 when production ended. As the T-38 fleet has aged, specific airframe, engine and system components have been modified or replaced. Pacer Classic is the name given to a sustainment program that integrates essential modifications, and includes major structural replacements into one process.

AETC began receiving T-38C models in 2001 as part of the Avionics Upgrade Program. T-38C models will also undergo a propulsion modernization program which replaces major engine components to enhance reliability and maintainability, and an engine inlet/injector modification to increase available takeoff thrust. These upgrades and modifications, with the Pacer Classic program, should extend the service life of T-38s to 2020.

Advanced JSUPT students fly the T-38C in aerobatics, formation, night, instrument and cross-country navigation training.

Test pilots and flight test engineers are trained in T-38s at the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Air Force Materiel Command uses the T-38 to test experimental equipment such as electrical and weapon systems.

Pilots from most North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries train in the T-38 at Sheppard AFB, Texas, through the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration uses T-38 aircraft as trainers for astronauts and as observers and chase planes on programs such as the space shuttle.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Primary Function: Advanced jet pilot trainer

Builder: Northrop Corp.

Power Plant: Two General Electric J85-GE-5 turbojet engines with afterburners

Thrust: 2,050 pounds dry thrust; 2,900 with afterburners

Thrust (with PMP): 2,200 pounds dry thrust; 3,300 with afterburners

Length: 46 feet, 4 inches (14 meters)

Height: 12 feet, 10 inches (3.8 meters)

Wingspan: 25 feet, 3 inches (7.6 meters)

Speed: 812 mph (Mach 1.08 at sea level)

Ceiling: Above 55,000 feet (16,764 meters)

Maximum Takeoff Weight: 12,093 pounds (5,485 kilograms)

Range: 1,093 miles

Armament: T-38A/C: none; AT-38B: provisions for practice bomb dispenser

Unit Cost: \$756,000 (1961 constant dollars)

Crew: Two, student and instructor

Date Deployed: March 1961

Inventory: Active force, 546; ANG, 0; Reserve 0



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL JAY A. JOHNSON

Colonel Jay A. Johnson is the Commander, 71st Flying Training Wing, Vance Air Force Base, Okla. He leads a wing of over 2,700 personnel conducting specialized undergraduate pilot training for more than 400 U.S. Air Force and Allied student pilots each year. The wing operates a fleet of over 200 aircraft, flies more than 55,000 sorties and logs over 80,000 flying hours each year. He is also responsible for executing \$550 million in flying and base operations contracts.

Colonel Johnson graduated from San Francisco State University and received his commission as a distinguished graduate from the University of California at Berkeley in 1999. His service and leadership experience spans several key operational and staff positions at the Squadron, Wing, and Joint Staff levels. He is a graduate of Air Mobility Command's Phoenix Mobility program and the Defense Legislative Fellowship. He served as Joint Staff, J-5, Strategic Plans and Policy Action Officer, Executive Assistant to the Director, Pakistan Afghanistan Coordination Cell and International Training, Education and Policy Division Chief, under the Director of Policy, Programs & Strategy, Office of the Under Secretary of the Air Force (International Affairs). He most recently served as the Vice Commander, 71st Flying Training Wing.



His deployment experience includes Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

EDUCATION

1999 Bachelor of Arts degree in social science, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, Calif.
2006 Top Third Graduate, Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
2008 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence.
2009 Master's degree in Aviation Safety with distinction, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Fla.
2011 Air Force Fellow, Capitol Hill Legislative Fellowship Program, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
2013 Air War College, by correspondence.
2017 Distinguished Graduate, Master's degree in national security and strategic studies, Naval War College, Newport, R.I.
2020 Air Force Enterprise Leadership Seminar, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. February 1999 – November 1999, Operations Staff Officer, 726th Air Control Squadron, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho
2. November 1999 – November 2000, Student, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, Columbus AFB, Miss.
3. November 2000 – February 2004, T-1A Stan/Eval Instructor Pilot and Executive Officer, 48th Flying Training Squadron, Columbus AFB, Miss.
4. February 2004 – July 2007, 60th Air Mobility Wing Executive Officer, KC-10A Instructor Aircraft Commander and Flight Commander, 9th Air Refueling Squadron, Travis AFB, Calif.

5. July 2007 – May 2008, Phoenix Mobility Program, Command and Control Flight Commander, 573d Global Support Squadron, Travis AFB, Calif.
6. May 2008 – July 2009, Phoenix Mobility Program, Assistant Director of Operations, Training Flight Commander and Air Refueling Control Team Chief, 15th Air Mobility Operations Squadron, Travis AFB, Calif.
7. July 2009 – June 2010, Phoenix Mobility Program, Director of Operations and Contingency Response Element Operations Officer, 571st Global Mobility Readiness Squadron, Travis AFB, Calif.
8. June 2010 – December 2011, Legislative Fellow for House Armed Services Committee Member, Washington, D.C.
9. December 2011 – June 2014, Executive Assistant to the Director and Action Officer, Joint Staff (J5) Pakistan Afghanistan Coordination Cell, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
10. June 2014 – June 2015, Commander, 571st Global Mobility Squadron, Travis AFB, Calif.
11. June 2015 – June 2016, Commander, 921st Contingency Response Squadron, Travis AFB, Calif.
12. June 2016 – June 2017, Student, Naval War College, Newport, R.I.
13. June 2017 – June 2018, Branch Chief, International Training & Education, Office of the Under Secretary of the Air Force (International Affairs), the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
14. June 2018 – December 2018, Division Chief, International Training, Education, and Policy, Office of the Under Secretary of the Air Force (International Affairs), the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
15. December 2018 – February 2021, Vice Commander, 71st Flying Training Wing, Vance AFB, Okla.
16. February 2021 – Present, Commander, 71st Flying Training Wing, Vance AFB, Okla.

JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

December 2011 – March 2014, Executive Assistant to the Director and Action Officer, Pakistan Afghanistan Coordination Cell (J5), Pentagon, Washington, D.C., as a major and later lieutenant colonel

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Hours flown: More than 3,300

Aircraft flown: T-37, T-1, T-6, and KC-10

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with oak leaf cluster

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters

NATO Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant January 18, 1999

First Lieutenant January 18, 2001

Captain January 18, 2003

Major September 1, 2008

Lieutenant Colonel November 1, 2012

Colonel February 1, 2019

(Current as of March 2021)



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT KRISTY L. EARLS

Chief Master Sergeant Kristy L. Earls is the Command Chief Master Sergeant, 71st Flying Training Wing, Vance Air Force Base, Okla. She advises the commander on the mission effectiveness, professional development, military readiness, training, utilization, health, morale, and welfare for over 2,600 total force personnel. Additionally, Chief Earls serves as the functional manager for the wing's Senior Enlisted Leaders and First Sergeants. Through her leadership and deliberate development of the force, Team Vance conducts specialized undergraduate pilot training for more than 400 U.S. Air Force and Allied student pilots annually, operating a fleet of over 200 aircraft, flying more than 55,000 sorties and logging over 80,000 flying hours each year.



Chief Earls entered the Air Force in December 1996 and graduated in May 1997 as a Public Health Apprentice from the United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas. Her background also includes experience as a Professional Military Education Instructor, Career Assistance Advisor, Air Education and Training Command Public Health Functional Manager and Career Field Manager. She has deployed with joint force components in support of operations SOUTHERN WATCH, ENDURING FREEDOM and U.S. Southern Command's New Horizons Training Exercise.

Prior to assuming her current position, she was the Superintendent, 31st Medical Group, 31st Fighter Wing, Aviano Air Base, Italy.

EDUCATION

2000 Associate in Applied Science, Public Health Technology, Community College of the Air Force (CCAF)
2000 Airman Leadership School, MacDill Air Force Base (AFB), Fla.
2004 Enlisted Professional Military Education Instructor Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
2006 Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences/Health Educator, Touro University International
2006 Health Education Specialist Certification, National Commission for Health Education Credentialing
2007 Associate in Applied Science, Instructor of Technology and Military Science, CCAF
2008 Occupational Instructor Certification, CCAF, Montgomery, Ala.
2008 Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Keesler AFB, Miss.
2008 Master of Science in Health Sciences/Public Health, Touro University International
2009 Senior Noncommissioned Officer Professional Military Education Distance Learning Course
2010 Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education Course, National Defense University
2012 Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Gunter Annex, Ala.
2016 Professional Manager Certification, CCAF, Montgomery, Ala.
2016 Air Force Medical Service Intermediate Executive Skills Course, San Antonio, Texas
2016 Combined Senior Leader Course, Defense Health Agency Headquarters, Falls Church, Va.
2017 Air Force Medical Home Executive Leadership Symposium Course, San Antonio, Texas
2018 Chief Master Sergeant Leadership Course, Gunter Annex, Ala.

2019 Air Force Judge Advocate Senior Enlisted Legal Orientation, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
2019 Command Chief Master Sergeant Training Course, Joint Base Andrews, Md.
2020 Strategic Mindset Seminar, Stimson Associates, Inc., Arlington, Va.
2021 USAF Leading Strategically Program, Center for Creative Leadership, Colorado Springs, Colo.
2022 Air Force Enterprise Leadership Seminar, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. December 1996 - January 1997, Trainee, Basic Military Training, Lackland AFB, Texas
2. February 1997 - May 1997, Student, Public Health Apprentice Course, Brooks AFB, Texas
3. May 1997 - July 1999, Public Health Technician, 77th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, McClellan AFB, Calif.
4. July 1999 - August 2000, Public Health Technician, 51st Aerospace Medicine Squadron, Osan Air Base (AB), Republic of Korea
5. August 2000 - July 2004, Public Health Technician, 6th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, MacDill AFB, Fla. (Deployed March 2002 - June 2002, NCOIC of Public Health, 380th Expeditionary Medical Group, Al Dhafra AB, United Arab Emirates)
6. July 2004 - October 2008, Airman Leadership School Instructor, Whiteman AFB, Mo.
7. October 2008 - July 2013, Superintendent, Public Health, 22d Aerospace Medicine Squadron, McConnell AFB, Kan.
8. July 2013 - June 2015, Career Assistance Advisor, 325th Force Support Squadron, Tyndall AFB, Fla.
9. June 2015 - May 2016, Air Force Career Field Manager/Career Assistance Advisors, Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas
10. May 2016 - July 2017, 559th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Superintendent/Air Education and Training Command Public Health Functional Manager, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas (Deployed February 2017 - June 2017, Superintendent, 346th Expeditionary Medical Operations Squadron, Dominican Republic)
11. July 2017 - June 2018, Superintendent, 359th Medical Group, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas
12. July 2018 - July 2020, Superintendent, 31st Medical Group, Aviano AB, Italy
13. July 2020 - present, Command Chief Master Sergeant, 71st Flying Training Wing, Vance AFB, Okla.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Air Force Achievement Medal

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

1997 Honor Graduate, Public Health Apprentice Course, USAF School of Aerospace Medicine
1999 Airman of the Year, 51st Medical Group
2000 John L. Levitow and Academic Achievement Awards, Airman Leadership School
2007 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, 509th Mission Support Squadron
2008 Distinguished Graduate and Commandant's Award Recipient, Noncommissioned Officer Academy
2009 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, 22d Medical Group
2009 Air Mobility Command Colonel Cleveland L. Parker Award (Noncommissioned Officer)
2010 Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, 22d Medical Group
2010 Air Mobility Command Colonel Cleveland L. Parker Award (Senior Noncommissioned Officer)
2010 Department of Defense/Society of Federal Health Agencies Lewis L. Seaman Senior Enlisted Award
2011 Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, 22d Air Refueling Wing
2012 Distinguished Graduate, Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy
2012 Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, 22d Medical Group
2013 Department of Defense/Society of Federal Health Agencies Lewis L. Seaman Senior Enlisted Award
2014 Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, 325th Force Support Squadron
2014 Air Combat Command General Billy J. Boles Mentorship Award
2014 Air Combat Command Professional Development Program of the Year

EFFECTIVE DATE OF PROMOTION

Chief Master Sergeant 1 November 2016

(Current as of April 2022)



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL CHARLES SCHUCK

Colonel Charles “Shell” Schuck is the Vice Commander of the 71st Flying Training Wing, Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma. The wing consists of more than 2,700 personnel conducting specialized undergraduate pilot training for more than 400 U.S. Air Force and allied student pilots each year. The wing operates more than 200 aircraft, flies more than 49,000 sorties annually, and logs more than 71,000 flying hours each year.

Colonel Schuck graduated from the United States Air Force Academy and received his commission as a Distinguished Graduate in 2002. He was a Distinguished Graduate from Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training at Vance AFB, Oklahoma in 2003, is a graduate of the United States Air Force Weapons School, commanded the 27th Fighter Squadron at Langley AFB, Virginia and graduated from the Joint Advanced Warfighting School (JAWS) of National Defense University in 2019. His service and leadership spans several key operational and staff positions at the Squadron, Group, Major Command, and Combatant Command levels. He served as the Chief of Air Combat Command’s Senior Leader Management Office in the Manpower, Personnel, and Services Directorate where he was the senior personnel advisor to the Commander, Air Combat Command and as a Joint Planner in the Operations Directorate at United States Central Command.



His deployments include Panama City, Panama; Okinawa, Japan; and Al Dhafra AB, UAE.

EDUCATION

2002 Distinguished Graduate, Bachelor of Science, in Economics, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.

2009 Distinguished Graduate, Squadron Officer School, in Residence, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2010 United States Air Force Weapons Instructor Course, F-22A, Nellis AFB, Nev.

2012 Master of Arts, in Education, Trident University International, Cypress, Calif.

2014 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence

2019 Master of Science, in Joint Operational Planning and Strategy, National Defense University, Norfolk, Va.

2022 Air Force Enterprise Leadership Seminar, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill Kenan-Flagler Business School

ASSIGNMENTS

1. July 2002 - January 2004, Student, Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, 25th Flying Training Sq, Vance AFB, Okla.

2. February 2004 - August 2004, Student, F-15C Basic Course, 95th Fighter Squadron, Tyndall AFB, Fla.

3. September 2004 - December 2006, F-15C 4-Ship Flight Lead, 71st Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.
4. January 2007 - June 2009, F-22A Instructor Pilot, 27th Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.
5. June 2009 - December 2011, F-22A FTU Instructor Pilot, 43rd Fighter Squadron, Tyndall AFB, Fla.
6. January 2012 - July 2014, F-22A Weapons School Instructor & Evaluator Pilot, 433rd Weapons Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nev.
7. August 2014 - April 2015, Director of Ops/F-22A Weapons School Instructor Pilot, 433rd Weapons Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nev.
8. April 2015 - June 2016, Chief, ACC Senior Leader Management, ACC/A1, Langley AFB, Va.
9. June 2016 - December 2016, Special Assistant to the 1 OG/CC, Langley AFB, Va.
10. December 2016 - June 2018, Commander, 27th Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.
11. April 2017 - October 2017, Commander, 27th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates
12. June 2018 - June 2019, Student, Joint Advanced Warfighting School, National Defense University, Norfolk, Va.
13. June 2019 - July 2020, Joint Planner & Dep Branch Chief, U.S. Central Command, Operations Directorate, MacDill AFB, Fla.
14. July 2020 – April 2021, Executive Officer to the Deputy Commander, U.S. Central Command, MacDill AFB, Fla.
15. April 2021 – Present, Vice Commander, 71st Flying Training Wing, Vance AFB, Ok.

JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

June 2019 – April 2021, Joint Planner, Deputy Branch Chief, and Executive Officer to the Deputy Commander, U.S. Central Command, MacDill AFB, Fla. (as Lieutenant Colonel and Colonel)

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Hours Flown: More than 1,950 (292 Combat)

Aircraft Flown: F-22A, F-15C/D, T-38A/C, T-37

MAJOR AWARDS and DECORATIONS

Defense Superior Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal, 4 OLC

Air Medal

Aerial Achievement Medal

Joint Meritorious Unit Award

Meritorious Unit Award, 1 OLC

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal

INHERENT RESOLVE Campaign Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant - May 29, 2002

First Lieutenant - May 29, 2004

Captain - May 29, 2006

Major - March 1, 2012

Lieutenant Colonel - January 1, 2016

Colonel - March 1, 2021

(Current as of April 2022)