



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL JAMES R. KAFER

Col. James R. Kafer is the Vice Commander, 81st Training Wing, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. The 81st Training Wing provides technical training for officers, enlisted and civilians of the U.S. Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserves, as well as other Department of Defense agencies. Keesler's technical training includes numerous electronic, computer, weather, medical, personnel, comptroller and information management career fields, creating the combat capability for air expeditionary and space forces.

Col. Kafer entered the U.S. Air Force Academy in June 1990 and was commissioned following graduation in June 1994. He is a career Force Support Officer with assignments in education and training at Randolph AFB, Texas, and personnel assignments at Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyo., and Travis AFB, Calif. He has served as a section commander at the squadron, wing, and combatant command levels and has served as an Air Officer Commanding at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Additionally, he has experience as Deputy Commander of the Expeditionary Mission Support Group at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar and various staff positions at the Air Force's Personnel Center.

Prior to his current position, the colonel was the Deputy Director of the Military Personnel Operations Directorate, Air Force's Personnel Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas.



EDUCATION

- 1994 Bachelor of Science, Political Science, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.
- 1999 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 2001 Master of Arts, Counseling & Human Services, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- 2007 Master of Arts, Military Arts & Sciences, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2008 Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.
- 2012 Air War College, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 1994-December 1996, Personnel Policy Manager and Command Country Manager, Air Force Security Assistance Squadron, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas
2. December 1996-August 1998, Section Commander, 90th Maintenance Squadron; Executive Officer, 90th Logistics Group, and Chief, Personnel Relocations and Employment, 90th Mission Support Squadron, Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyo.
3. May 2000-May 2001, Student, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, Colo.
4. May 2001-June 2004, Commander, Cadet Squadron 14, 34th Training Group, and Wing Section Commander, 34th Training Wing, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.
5. June 2004-July 2006, Military Personnel Flight Commander, 60th Mission Support Squadron, Travis AFB, Calif.
6. August 2006-June 2007, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

7. July 2007-November 2007, Chief, Air Force Personnel Programs, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, Neb.
8. November 2007-July 2010, Chief, Joint Force Development Division and Air Force Element Section Commander, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, Neb.
9. July 2010-May 2012, Commander, 2nd Force Support Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La.
10. June 2012-June 2013, Deputy Commander, 379th Expeditionary Mission Support Group, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar
11. July 2013-July 2020, Chief, Base Support Officer Assignments Branch; Deputy Chief, Line Officer Assignments Division; Deputy Chief, Logistics & Support Career Management Division; Chief, Sustainment and Transition Operations Division; and Deputy Director, Military Personnel Operations Directorate, Air Force Personnel Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas
12. July 2020-Present, Vice Commander, 81st Training Wing, Keesler AFB, Miss.

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. November 2007-July 2010, Chief, Joint Force Development Division and Air Force Element Section Commander, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, Neb.

DECORATIONS AND MAJOR AWARDS

Legion of Merit
Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster
Humanitarian Service Medal
Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant June 1, 1994
First Lieutenant June 1, 1996
Captain June 1, 1998
Major Oct. 1, 2004
Lieutenant Colonel Sept. 1, 2009
Colonel July 1, 2016

(Current as of August 2020)