



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT ZACHARY M. BAUMGARDNER

Chief Master Sergeant Zachary M. Baumgardner is the Senior Enlisted Leader for the 22d Operations Group at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas. He is responsible for advising the commander on the readiness of over 650 personnel to employ KC-135 Stratotanker and KC-46 Pegasus aircraft across four local squadrons and one geographically separated unit at Pease Air National Guard Base, New Hampshire. The mission of the 22d Operations Group includes in-flight refueling, global reach airlift, strategic support of conventional and non-conventional operations, as well as execution of U.S. Strategic Command Operations requirements for the Air Force, Department of Defense and allied nations worldwide.

Chief Baumgardner was born in Hanover, Pennsylvania and is a graduate from Amherst County High School in Virginia. He entered the Air Force in September 2001 and began his career as a Ground Radar Maintenance Apprentice. In 2008, he retrained to become a Career Enlisted Aviator, where he has served as an Instructor and Evaluator with duties at the combat unit, formal training unit, technical training unit, Wing, NAF, and MAJCOM levels. Prior to assuming his current position, he served as Senior Enlisted Leader of the 350th Air Refueling Squadron, the Air Force's only triple certified tanker unit. He is a chief enlisted aircrew member and has deployed in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH, IRAQI FREEDOM, NEW DAWN, and ENDURING FREEDOM.



Chief Baumgardner and his wife, Cecilia, have two children: Evelyn (11) and Katie (5).

EDUCATION

2006 Airman Leadership School, Robins AFB, GA
2013 Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, Sheppard AFB, TX
2015 Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Correspondence Course
2015 Associate of Applied Science, Electronic System Technology, Community College of the Air Force
2015 Associate of Applied Science, Instr of Tech/Military Science, Community College of the Air Force
2015 Associate of Applied Science, Information System Management, Community College of the Air Force
2015 Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education Correspondence Course
2018 Basic Instructor Course, JBSA-Lackland, TX
2020 Career Enlisted Aviator Senior Leadership Course, JBSA-Lackland, TX
2021 Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Maxwell-Gunter AFB, AL
2021 Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education I & II, by correspondence, National Defense University
2021 Gettysburg Leadership Experience, Gettysburg, PA
2022 Air Combat Command Senior Enlisted Leader Course, Langley AFB, VA
2024 Air Force Personnel Center Senior Enlisted Leader Course, JBSA-Randolph AFB, TX
2024 Bachelor of Business Administration, American Military University
2025 Chief Initial Mission Command Training, Tyndall AFB, FL

ASSIGNMENTS

1. September 2001 - October 2001, Student, Basic Military Training, Lackland AFB, TX
2. October 2001 - August 2002, Student, Ground Radar Technical Training, Keesler AFB, MS
3. August 2002 - August 2006, Air Traffic Control and Landing System Crew Member, 53 CBCS, Robins AFB, GA
4. August 2006 - July 2008, Air Traffic Control and Landing System Crew Chief, 53 CBCS, Robins AFB, GA
5. July 2008 - October 2009, Enlisted Aircrew Undergraduate Course, JBSA-Lackland, TX
6. October 2009 - January 2010, E-3B/C Initial Qualification, 552 TRS, Tinker AFB, OK
7. January 2010 - February 2011, NCOIC, Flight Administration, 960 AACS, Tinker AFB, OK
8. February 2011 - June 2012, Flight NCOIC, 960 AACS, Tinker AFB, OK
9. June 2012 - May 2014, NCOIC, Squadron Training, 965 AACS, Tinker AFB, OK
10. May 2014 - December 2014, Section Chief, Squadron Mobility, 965 AACS, Tinker AFB, OK
11. December 2014 - January 2015, E-3 Formal Training Unit Instructor, 966 AACS, Tinker AFB, OK
12. January 2015 - October 2015, Section Chief, Programmed Flight Training, 966 AACS, Tinker AFB, OK
13. October 2015 - March 2017, Flight Chief, 966 AACS, Tinker AFB, OK
14. March 2017 - December 2018, Superintendent, Wing Protocol, 552 ACW, Tinker AFB, OK
15. December 2018 - April 2019, Flight Chief, 344 TRS, JBSA-Lackland, TX
16. April 2019 - October 2019, Operations Superintendent, 344 TRS, JBSA-Lackland, TX
17. October 2019 - January 2021, ITP - AETC Program Liaison, 19 AF, JBSA- Randolph, TX
18. January 2021 - July 2022, Squadron Superintendent, 12 ACCS, Robins AFB, GA
19. July 2022 - February 2023, Senior Enlisted Leader, Program Integration Office, 461 ACW, Robins AFB, GA
20. February 2023 - August 2023, Senior Enlisted Leader, 728 BMCS, Robins AFB, GA
21. August 2023 - January 2024, Senior Enlisted Leader, 461 ACW Staff, Robins AFB, GA
22. January 2024 - June 2025, Senior Enlisted Leader, 18 ACCS/472 ECS, Robins AFB, GA
23. June 2025 – April 2026, Senior Enlisted Leader, 350 ARS, McConnell AFB, KS
24. April 2026 – Present, Senior Enlisted Leader, 22 OG, McConnell AFB, KS

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Chief Enlisted Aircrew

Flight Hours: More than 1,900 hours

Aircraft Experience: E-3B/C/G, E-8C, & E-11A

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf cluster

Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2006 Distinguished Graduate, Air Force Airman Leadership School

2008 Distinguished Graduate, Enlisted Aircrew Fundamentals

2008 Distinguished Graduate, Airborne Mission System Technical Training

2013 Airborne Radar Technician of the Year, 552d Operations Group

2013 Wing Safety Award, 552d Air Control Wing

2016 CMSgt Fred Archer Military Award, 552d Operations Group

2021 David Schilling Air Force Association Nominee, Air Education and Training Command

2021 CMSgt Richard L. Etchberger Team Award, Air Force Senior Enlisted Non-Commissioned Officer Academy

2021 Lance P. Sijan Award, 461st Air Control Wing

2022 Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year, 461st Air Control Wing

2023 GEICO Military Service Award, 461st Air Control Wing

2024 Lance P. Sijan Award, 319th Reconnaissance Wing

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Chief Master Sergeant, 1 March 2025

(Current as of April 2026)