



COLONEL RICHARD K. KIND

Colonel Richard K. Kind is Commander, 97th Air Mobility Wing, Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma. As commander, he is responsible for the formal training of all KC-46 Pegasus, C-17 Globemaster III and KC-135 Stratotanker aircrews for active duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve units, as well as multiple partner air forces from across the world. In addition, the wing simultaneously maintains a worldwide capability to support combatant commanders by deploying mission-ready Airmen on short notice.

Colonel Kind received his commission from the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at Bowling Green State University, Ohio in 2001. He attended Undergraduate Pilot Training and earned his wings at Vance Air Force Base. During his twenty-five-year career, he has served in a variety of positions at the Squadron, Wing, Major Command, Headquarters Air Force, and Combatant Command levels. He is a command pilot with more than 4,000 hours in airlift and trainer aircraft. Prior to his current position, the Colonel was the Deputy Commander, 375th Air Mobility Wing, Scott AFB, Illinois.



EDUCATION

- 2001 Bachelor of Arts, International Studies/Political Science, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio
- 2008 United States Air Force Weapons Instructor Course, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.
- 2009 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2010 Master of Aerospace Safety and Management, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Fla.
- 2010 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama., by correspondence.
- 2012 Joint and Combined Warfighting School (JPME Phase II), Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.
- 2019 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2022 Master of Strategic Studies with Grand Strategy concentration, awarded Academic Distinction, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 2001 – July 2002, Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Vance Air Force Base, Okla.
2. July 2002 – November 2007, C-17 Instructor Pilot, 16th Airlift Squadron, Charleston AFB, S.C..
3. November 2007 – June 2008, Student, Weapons Instructor Course, McGuire AFB, N.J.
4. June 2008 – June 2010, C-17 Weapons Instructor Pilot, 4th Airlift Squadron, McChord AFB, Wash.
5. June 2010 – September 2011, C-17 Weapons Instructor Pilot & Executive Officer, 62d Airlift Wing, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.
6. September 2011 – July 2013, North/West Regional Branch Chief & Operational Planner, Operations and Cyber (J3), U.S. Africa Command, Kelley Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany.
7. July 2013 – September 2014, Deputy Executive Officer & Aide-de-Camp to the Deputy Commander, Civil-Military Engagement, U.S. Africa Command, Kelley Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany
8. September 2014 – April 2016, Operations Officer, 57th Weapons Squadron, JBMDL, N.J.
9. April 2016 – February 2018, Operations Officer, 621st Contingency Response Squadron, JBMDL, N.J.
10. February 2018 – June 2020, Commander, 321st Contingency Response Squadron, JBMDL, N.J.





BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

11. June 2020 – July 2021, Chief, Airlift and Air Advisor/Expeditionary Readiness Branches, Headquarters Air Force Training & Readiness Directorate, Pentagon, Va.
12. July 2021 – July 2022, Student, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
13. July 2022 – August 2023, Deputy Chief of Staff, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Ill.
14. August 2023 – July 2025, Deputy Commander, 375th Air Mobility Wing, Scott AFB, Ill.
15. July 2025 – Present, Commander, 97th Air Mobility Wing, Altus AFB, Okla.

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. September 2011 – July 2013, North/West Regional Branch Chief and Operational Planner, Operations and Cyber (J3), U.S. Africa Command, Kelley Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany, as a major
2. July 2013 – September 2014, Deputy Executive Officer and Aide-de-Camp to the Deputy Commander, Civil-Military Engagement, U.S. Africa Command, Kelley Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany, as a major

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: More than 4,000 hours

Aircraft flown: T-37B, T-1A, C-17A, and C-40

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Air and Space Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Joint Service Achievement Medal

Air and Space Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Combat Readiness Medal with three oak leaf clusters

National Defense Service Medal

Antarctica Service Medal

Afghanistan Campaign Medal with service star

Iraq Campaign Medal with three service stars

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 30, 2001

First Lieutenant May 30, 2003

Captain May 30, 2005

Major June 01, 2011

Lieutenant Colonel July 01, 2016

Colonel June 01, 2022

(Current as of Mar 2026)

