



COLONEL ROBERT E. BITTNER JR.

Colonel Robert E. Bittner Jr. is the Commander, 97th Operations Group, Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma. As commander, he is responsible for the Air Force's sole formal training units for KC-135, C-17, and KC-46 aircrew. He provides leadership and oversight for all matters influencing the health and welfare of over 500 Airmen, 207 contractors, and 60 civilians across five squadrons. Additionally, he oversees the management and execution of 34 formal training courses to execute 23,000 flight hours, \$2 billion in contracts, and graduate over 2,000 students annually from all three Air Force components and 23 allied nations.

Col Bittner received his commission in 2002 after graduating from the United States Air Force Academy. Throughout his career, he has held various positions at the Group, Wing, Headquarters Air Force, and Combatant Command levels. He commanded the 387th Air Expeditionary Squadron at Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait. Prior to his current position, the colonel served as the Chief Aircraft and Logistics Requirements Division, Directorate of Strategy, Plans, Requirements, and Programs, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.



Col Bittner is a Command Pilot with more than 4,100 flying hours, including over 1,200 combat hours. He served operational tours as an instructor pilot in both the KC-10A and C-130H. He has participated in numerous operations and contingencies, including Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, NEW DAWN, INHERENT RESOLVE, RESOLUTE SUPPORT, FREEDOM'S SENTINEL, SPARTAN SHIELD, NOBLE EAGLE, UNIFIED RESPONSE, ALLIES REFUGE, and MIDNIGHT HAMMER.

EDUCATION

2002 Bachelor of Science in Management, United States Air Force Academy, Colo.
 2008 Distinguished Graduate, Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
 2009 Master of Business Administration, Touro University International, Calif.
 2012 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala. by correspondence
 2015 Master of Science of Strategic Intelligence, National Intelligence University, Washington D.C.
 2015 Joint Information Operations Planners' Course, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA
 2018 Inspector General Training Course, Air Force Inspection Agency, Kirkland AFB, NM
 2021 Air War College Correspondence, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. May 2002 – October 2003, Student, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.
2. October 2003 – December 2008, KC-10 Pilot/Awards and Decorations Officer, Aircraft Commander/Readiness Officer, KC-10 Instructor Aircraft Commander/Executive Officer, Assistant Chief of Training, 32d Air Refueling Squadron, McGuire AFB, N.J.
3. December 2008 – July 2009, Student, C-130 Aircraft Commander Initial Qualification, 62d Airlift Squadron, Little Rock AFB, Ark.



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

4. July 2009 – July 2011, C-130H2 Aircraft Commander, Flight Commander, Director of Staff, 2d Airlift Squadron, Pope AFB, N.C.
5. July 2011 – May 2012, C-130H2 Instructor Aircraft Commander, Airlift Group Executive Officer, Airlift Group Director of Staff, 43d Airlift Group, Pope Field, N.C.
6. June 2012 – August 2014, Chief, Mobility/Bomber/AWACS/Recce/Attaché Colonel Assignments, Air Force Colonel Management Office, Headquarters Air Force, the Pentagon, Washington D.C.
7. August 2014 – July 2015, Intermediate Developmental Education Graduate Student, National Intelligence University, Defense Intelligence Agency, Washington D.C.
8. July 2015 – May 2016, Chief, Initiatives Branch/Command Military Deception Officer, Operations Directorate, Headquarters United States Central Command, MacDill AFB, Fla.
9. May 2016 – January 2018, Commander's Action Group Strategist, Office of the Commander, Headquarters United States Central Command, MacDill AFB, Fla.
10. January 2018 – July 2018, Student, KC-10 Requalification Training, 305th Operations Support Squadron, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.
11. July 2018 – July 2019, Wing Inspector General, 305th Air Mobility Wing, JB McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.
12. July 2019 – July 2020, Commander, 387 Air Expeditionary Squadron, Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait
13. August 2020 – April 2021, Chief, KC-46 Program Integration Office, JB McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.
14. April 2021 – July 2022, Executive Officer to the Commander, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, JB McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.
15. July 2022 – June 2023, Chief Tanker Requirements Branch, Directorate of Strategy, Plans, Requirements, and Programs, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Ill.
16. June 2023 – June 2025, Chief Aircraft and Logistics Requirements Division, Directorate of Strategy, Plans, Requirements, and Programs, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Ill.
17. June 2025 – Present, Commander, 97th Operations Group, Altus AFB, Okla.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: More than 4,100 with more than 1,200 combat hours

Aircraft flown: T-37, T-1A, KC-10A, C-130E/H, KC-46A

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf cluster

Air Medal with eight oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air and Space Commendation Medal

Air Force Combat Action Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant	May 29, 2002
First Lieutenant	May 29, 2004
Captain	May 29, 2006
Major	April 1, 2012
Lieutenant Colonel	March 1, 2017
Colonel	September 1, 2023

(Current as of September 25)

