



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL THOMAS S. CAUTHEN

Colonel Thomas S. Cauthen is the Wing Commander, 134th Air Refueling Wing Tennessee Air National Guard. He is responsible for the execution of all unit programs, and provides a focus for all unit functions and activities affecting over 1,800 Guard members and civilians. Colonel Cauthen ensures flying hour/sortie programs meet requirements, and the unit achieves mission training and combat readiness objectives. He is also responsible for mission capable KC-135R aircraft to meet all unit flying programs and alert/contingency requirements

Colonel Cauthen commissioned in 1984 through the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science. He has flown combat support aerial refueling missions for Desert Shield, Southern Watch, Joint Forge, Allied Force, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Noble Eagle, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Additionally, Colonel Cauthen has deployed to Incirlik, Turkey as the 385th Air Expeditionary Forces Operations Officer supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, to Istres, France as the Operations Officer for Joint Forge, and to Mildenhall, England as the 171st Air Expeditionary Wing Operations Group Commander supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. From August to Nov 2000, Colonel Cauthen was an initial cadre Instructor Pilot for the 134th Air Refueling Wing conversion to Pacer Crag (Block 30).



Colonel Cauthen served in a variety of positions within the 134th. He was the Operations Support Flight Commander before becoming the 151st Air Refueling Squadron Commander in June 2001. In October 2003, Colonel Cauthen moved to Maintenance as the Maintenance Squadron Commander and was promoted to the Maintenance Group Commander in January 2004. Col Cauthen assumed the position of Vice Commander in August of 2006. In June 2011, Col Cauthen was selected as Wing Commander.

EDUCATION

1984 Bachelor degree in Pre-Engineering from Carson Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn. 1988 Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering from University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn.
1995 Squadron Officer School (by correspondence)
1999 Air Command and Staff College (by correspondence)
2003 Air War College (by correspondence)

ASSIGNMENTS

1. March 1985 - February 1986, student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Reese AFB, Tex.
2. February 1986 - June 1986, student, KC-135A Copilot Combat Crew Training, Castle AFB, Calif.
3. September 1986 - June 1990, KC-135E Copilot, McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn.
4. June 1990 - March 1993, KC-135E Aircraft Commander, McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn.
5. March 1993 - Present, KC-135 Instructor Pilot, McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn.
6. November 1998 - June 2001, Operations Support Flight Commander, McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn.
7. June 2001 - October 2003, 151st Air Refueling Squadron Commander, McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn.
8. October 2003 - January 2004, Maintenance Squadron Commander, McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn.
9. January 2004 - August 2006, Maintenance Group Commander, McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn.
10. August 2006 – June 2011, Vice Commander, McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn.

11. June 2011 – Present, Wing Commander

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot Flight Hours: Over 5400

Aircraft Flown: T-37, T-38, KC-135A, KC-135E and KC-135R

Pilot wings from: Reese Air Force Base, Texas

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with four bronze oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal

Air Force Achievement Medal

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with one silver and three bronze oak leaf clusters

Combat Readiness Medal with two silver and two bronze oak leaf clusters

National Defense Service Medal with bronze star

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Southwest Asia Service Medal with two bronze stars

Kosovo Campaign Medal with one bronze star

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Armed Forces Service Medal

Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal with bronze oak leaf cluster

Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon

Air Force Longevity Service Award with three bronze oak leaf clusters

Armed Forces Reserve Medal with silver hour glass

Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon

Air Force Training Ribbon

Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait)

Tennessee National Guard War Service Ribbon with two bronze oak leaf clusters

Tennessee National Guard Service Ribbon with two bronze oak leaf clusters

Tennessee National Guard Volunteer Ribbon

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant 6 December 1984

First Lieutenant 15 December 1986

Captain 7 January 1989

Major 21 June 1995

Lieutenant Colonel 24 June 1999

Colonel 22 July 2004

(Current as of February 2016)