



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL RANDALL E. GRATZ

Colonel Randall E. Gratz is the Vice Commander, 134th Air Refueling Wing, Tennessee Air National Guard.

A native of East Tennessee, Colonel Gratz enlisted in the Air Force in October 1975 and served as a Security Policeman with the 96th Bomb Wing, Dyess AFB, TX. In 1977 he enlisted with the Tennessee Air National Guard and continued in the Security Police career field until May 1981 when he entered the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science and received his commission in June 1981. Following his commissioning, Colonel Gratz entered Undergraduate Navigator training at Mather AFB, CA and earned his wings in April 1982. After completing KC-135 Combat Crew Training at Castle Air Force Base, CA, Colonel Gratz returned to McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base in September 1982 and was assigned as a combat crewmember. In 1987 he attended Instructor training at Carswell AFB, TX and served as Instructor Navigator and later as an Evaluator until 2002. In April 2000 Colonel Gratz was assigned to the Aircraft Maintenance Group where he initially served as Maintenance Officer. In August 2001, he was assigned as the Maintenance Squadron Commander. In August 2006, he was selected as the Maintenance Group Commander, where he served until his current assignment in June 2011.



Colonel Gratz has flown combat support aerial refueling missions for Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Joint Forge, and Operation Enduring Freedom. Additionally, Colonel Gratz has made multiple deployments to Incirlik AB, Turkey, Istres, France, Pisa, Italy, Rhein-Main, Germany, RAF Mildenhall UK, United Arab Emirates, and Joint Base Balad, Iraq in both operations as a mission planner and crewmember and maintenance as a deployed maintenance commander.

EDUCATION:

- 1979 Criminal Justice, Walters State Community College, Morristown, Tenn.
- 1998 Organizational Management, Tusculum College, Knoxville, Tenn.
- 1992 Squadron Officer School (by correspondence)
- 2005 Air War College (by correspondence)

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. November 1975 - December 1975, Basic Military Training, Lackland AFB, Texas
2. January 1976 – March 1976, Security Police Training, Lackland AFB, Texas
3. March 1976 – March 1977, 96th Security Police Squadron, Dyess AFB, Texas
4. March 1977 – May 1981, 134th Security Police Flight, McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn.
5. May 1981 – June 1981, Academy of Military Science, McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn.
6. July 1981 – April 1982, Undergraduate Navigator Training, Mather AFB, Calif.
7. May 1982 – August 1982, KC-135 Combat Crew Training, Castle AFB, Calif.
8. August 1982 – November 1989, KC-135 Combat Crew Member, McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn.
9. November 1989 – February 1999, Air Operations Officer, McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn.
10. February 1999 – May 2000, Standards and Evaluation Navigator, McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn.
11. May 2000 – October 2003, Maintenance Officer/Squadron Commander, McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn.
12. October 2003 – August 2006, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Commander, McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn.
13. August 2006 – June 2011, Maintenance Group Commander, McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn.
14. June 2011 – Present, Vice Commander, McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn.

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Master Navigator

Flight Hours: Over 3,700

Aircraft: T-37, T-43A, KC-135A, KC-135E and KC-135R

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Airman's Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with 3 devices

Air Medal

Aerial Achievement Medal

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with 1 device

Air Force Achievement Medal

Joint Meritorious Unit Award

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with 8 devices and Valor device

Combat Readiness Medal with 7 devices

Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal

National Defense Service Medal with 1 device

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Southwest Asia Service Medal with 2 devices

Kosovo Campaign Medal with 1 device

Iraq Campaign Medal with 1 device

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Armed Forces Service Medal

Air Force Overseas Ribbon Short-Tour

Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border and 2 devices

Air Force Longevity Service Award with 7 devices

Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 5 M devices

Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with 1 device

Air Force Training Ribbon

Kuwait Liberation Medal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Kuwait Liberation Medal Government of Kuwait

Tennessee National Guard Individual Achievement Ribbon with 1 device

Tennessee National Guard War Service Ribbon

Tennessee National Guard Service Ribbon with 2 devices

Tennessee National Guard Volunteer Ribbon

Tennessee National Guard Volunteer Recruiting and Retention Unit Citation

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant June 25, 1981
First Lieutenant September 1, 1983
Captain October 10, 1985
Major April 10, 1992
Lieutenant Colonel October 1, 1999
Colonel September 21, 2006

(Current as of January 2012)