



# BIOGRAPHY

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### COLONEL BRYAN BEARDEN

Colonel Bryan Bearden commands the 8th Fighter Wing at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea. The wing plans, supports and executes military operations to include counterair, interdiction and close air support and consists of more than 2,700 personnel, four groups and 15 squadrons, including two F-16 fighter squadrons. The colonel reports to the 7th Air Force commander for the wing's conduct of conventional air-to-ground and air-to-air missions in support of armistice and wartime taskings.

Colonel Bearden received his commission from the Texas A&M University Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1987. He has held key positions in fighter, mobility and reconnaissance wings to include active duty liaison pilot to a National Guard wing. As the commander of the 363rd Expeditionary Operations Squadron, Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, Colonel Bearden was responsible for combat support to 21 different aircraft types in the largest combat wing in Southwest Asia. Part of the initial cadre, he helped establish the first

C2ISR Center for the U.S. Air Force. During his tour on the Joint Staff, Colonel Bearden provided oversight for all issues concerning the National Military Command System, the global strike and combating weapons of mass destruction mission areas, space and missile defense, continuity of government and nuclear communications and procedures.

Colonel Bearden is a command pilot with more than 2,000 flying hours, including more than 350 hours of combat time in Operations DESERT STORM, DENY FLIGHT, DELIBERATE FORCE, SOUTHERN WATCH and IRAQI FREEDOM.

#### EDUCATION

1987 Bachelor of Science, Aerospace Engineering, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas  
1993 PACAF Life Support Officers Course, Kadena AB, Japan  
1995 USAF Squadron Officer's School (Residence), Distinguished Graduate, Maxwell AFB, Ala.  
1996 Masters of Science, Aerospace Studies, Embry-Riddle University, Daytona Beach, Fla.  
1996 NATO Tactical Leadership Programme, Florennes AB, Belgium  
1998 USAF Advance Maintenance Officers School (Accelerated), Sheppard AFB, Texas  
2000 Masters of Science, Military Operational Art and Science, USAF Air Command and Staff College, Montgomery, Ala.  
2004 Masters of Science, National Security Strategy, National War College, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.  
2007 Senior Executive Fellowship, Public Policy, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, MA

#### ASSIGNMENTS

1. December 1987 - December 1988, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Laughlin AFB, Texas
2. April 1989 - December 1989, Student, RF-4 training, Bergstrom AFB, Texas
3. January 1990 - August 1990, RF-4 Aircraft Commander, 15th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Taegu AB, Republic of Korea



4. August 1990 - April 1991, RF-4 Aircraft Commander, squadron flying safety and training officer, 38th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Zweibrucken AB, Germany
5. May 1991 - November 1991, RF-4 Aircraft Commander, wing Top Gun Program Manager, 12th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, Bergstrom AFB, Texas
6. November 1991 - May 1993, RF-4 Aircraft Commander, active duty liaison pilot, 155th Reconnaissance Wing, Nebraska Air National Guard, Lincoln, Neb.
7. June 1993 - Aug 1994, F-16 Pilot, Chief of Squadron Scheduling and Life Support, 80th Fighter Squadron, Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea
8. September 1994 - July 1997, F-16 Pilot, Chief of Squadron Scheduling, 510th Fighter Squadron, later, Assistant Director of Operations, 31st Operations Support Squadron, Aviano AB, Italy
9. August 1997 - July 1999, Aide-de-Camp to the Commander, Aerospace Command & Control, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Center, Langley AFB, Va.
10. August 1999 - June 2000, Student, USAF Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
11. July 2000 - May 2002, F-16 Instructor Pilot, Assistant Director of Operations, 79th Fighter Squadron, later, Chief of Wing Inspections, 20th Fighter Wing, Shaw AFB, S.C.
12. May 2002 - June 2003, Commander, 363rd Expeditionary Operations Squadron, Prince Sultan AB, Saudi Arabia
13. July 2003 - Jun 2004, Student, National War College, Fort McNair, Washington D.C.
14. Jun 2004 -May 2006, Chief, Strategic Operations Division, the Joint Staff, Washington D.C.
15. May 2006 - May 2008, Commander, 43rd Maintenance Group, Pope Air Force Base, N.C.
16. May 2008 - Present, Commander, 8th Fighter Wing, Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea

#### **FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight Hours: More than 2,000 hours

Aircraft Flown: T-37, T-38, RF-4 and F-16

#### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Defense Superior Service Medal

Legion of Merit

Distinguished Flying Cross

Bronze Star Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal

Air Force Achievement Medal

Combat Action Medal

Combat Readiness Medal with one oak leaf clusters

1995 USAF Squadron Officers School, Commandant's Award as Top Graduate

1997 USAFE Lt. Gen. Claire Chennault Award, Command's Top Tactician

#### **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant Aug. 24, 1987

First Lieutenant Aug. 24, 1989

Captain Aug. 24, 1991

Major Aug. 1, 1998

Lieutenant Colonel May 1, 2001

Colonel Aug. 1, 2005

(Current as of May 2008)