



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL JOHN W. MCDONALD

Col. John W. McDonald is Commander, 43rd Airlift Wing and Installation Commander, Pope Air Force Base, N.C. The wing is comprised of C-130E aircraft and 3,000 personnel from 18 squadrons, providing tactical airlift support to the Army's XVIII Airborne Corps, 82nd Airborne Division and US Special Forces Command. Pope Air Force Base also conducts air mobility and airdrop testing, facilitates joint force training, and provides host support to numerous organizations including the 440th Airlift Wing, Combat Control School, 21st and 24th Special Tactics Squadrons, and 18th Air Support Operations Group.

Col. McDonald received his commission through Reserve Officer Training Corps at Florida State University in 1983. He is a master navigator with more than 2,100 flying hours in the C-130 E/H and T-43 aircraft. His career includes numerous operational and staff positions to include Chief of Staff and Executive Assistant to the Director for Operational Plans and Joint Force Development, J-7, Joint Staff, Pentagon, Washington D.C. and most recently, Vice Commander, 43d Airlift Wing, Pope Air Force Base, N.C.



EDUCATION

- 1983 Bachelor of Science in Accounting, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Fla.
- 1988 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 1993 Master of Business Administration, Organizational Management, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo.
- 1997 Air Command and Staff College, Distinguished Graduate, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 1998 Master of Arts, Airpower Arts and Sciences School of Advanced Airpower Studies, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2001 Master of Arts, National Security Strategy, National War College, Washington D.C.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. January 1984 - September 1984, student, Undergraduate Navigator Training, Mather AFB, Calif.
2. February 1985 - August 1990, Instructor Navigator, Wing Command and Control Officer, Dyess AFB, Texas
3. August 1990 - August 1994, Military Training Scheduler, Air Officer Commanding Cadet Squadron 10, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
4. August 1994 - July 1996, Airlift Plans Officer, Executive Officer to the Director of Plans, HQ Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Ill.
5. August 1996 - June 1997, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
6. June 1997 - June 1998, Student, School of Advanced Airpower Studies, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
7. July 1998 - July 2000, Director of Operations 50th Airlift Squadron, Commander, 61st Airlift Squadron, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
8. August 2000 - June 2001, Student, National War College, Washington D.C.
9. July 2001 - July 2005, Combatant Commander Initiative Fund Program Manager, Chief of Staff and

Executive Assistant to the Director for Operational Plans and Joint Force Development, J-7, The Joint Staff, Pentagon, Washington D.C.

10. July 2005 - July 2006, 386th Air Expeditionary Operations Group Commander, Ali Al Salem AB, Kuwait

11. July 2006 - May 2008, Vice Commander, 43rd Airlift Wing, Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Master Navigator

Flight Hours: More than 2,200

Aircraft: C-130 E/H, T-43

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Superior Service Medal

Bronze Star

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Joint Service Achievement Medal

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with one oak leaf cluster

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with two oak leaf clusters

Combat Readiness Medal

National Defense Service Medal with one device

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Kosovo Campaign Medal

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Armed Forces Service Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 25, 1983

First Lieutenant May 25, 1985

Captain May 25, 1987

Major March 1, 1995

Lieutenant Colonel July 1, 1999

Colonel June 1, 2005

(Current as of May 2008)