



Biography

United States Air Force

315th Airlift Wing (AFRC)

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Public Affairs Division Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina 29404-4917

Colonel Steven C. Priest

Colonel Priest is the Vice Wing Commander of the 315th Airlift Wing, Joint Base Charleston, S.C. He commands over 2,500 Reserve personnel who augment the Active Component Strategic Airlift, Airdrop, and Aeromedical Evacuation forces in both peacetime and contingency operations. These missions support worldwide combat operations and humanitarian relief efforts as directed by the Department of Defense.

Colonel Priest entered the Air Force in 1996 as a graduate of Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. He is a dual rated aviator serving initially as an Instructor Electronic Warfare Officer and currently as a Command Pilot with over 3000 hours of flight time. He deployed in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH, IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM in addition to supporting NOBLE EAGLE and START 2 treaty verification flights worldwide. He has a broad background in reconnaissance operations and State Department support missions through the RIVET JOINT, CONSTANT PHOENIX, COBRA BALL and OPEN SKIES programs. In addition to his Reserve duties, Colonel Priest works as a civilian Flight Test Engineer in Fort Worth, Texas.



EDUCATION

- 1993 Bachelor of Arts Degree in Fine Art/Illustration, California State University Northridge, Northridge, California.
- 2003 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.
- 2007 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama, by correspondence.
- 2009 Master of Science in Aviation and Aerospace Safety Systems, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Florida.
- 2016 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama, by correspondence.
- 2017 Reserve Component National Security Course, National Defense University, Washington D.C.
- 2017 Joint and Combined Warfighting School– Hybrid (Formerly AJPME), Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia.
- 2019 Master of Science in National Resource Strategy, Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy (Formerly ICAF), Washington D.C.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. September 1996 - June 1997, Student, Specialized Undergraduate Navigator Training, Pensacola Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida.
2. July 1997 - November 1997, Student, Joint Aviation Electronic Warfare School, Corry Naval Technical Training Center, Pensacola, Florida.
3. January 1998 - September 2000, RC-135S Electronic Warfare Officer, Instructor Electronic Warfare Officer, Executive Officer and Stan/Eval Liaison Officer, 45th RS, Offutt AFB, Bellevue, Nebraska.
4. October 2000 - October 2001, Student, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, Laughlin AFB, Del Rio, Texas.
5. November 2001 - January 2006, E-3 Sentry pilot, Flight Commander and Chief of Contingency Flight Deck Operations, 965th AACS and 552 OSS, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
6. February 2006 - November 2006, RC-135V Rivet Joint pilot, 343rd RS, Offutt AFB, Bellevue, Nebraska.
7. December 2006 - June 2010, OC/WC-135 pilot, Instructor Pilot, Chief of Pilot Training, Chief of Scheduling, Assistant Director of Operations, 45th RS and 55th OSS, Offutt AFB, Bellevue, Nebraska.
8. July 2010 - November 2011, Deputy Division Chief C2ISR Test Operations, Test Director, AFOTEC Det. 5, Edwards AFB, California.
9. December 2011 – July 2015, Operations Officer, Commander, 452nd ALCF, March ARB, Riverside, California.
10. August 2015 – January 2018, Commander, 336th ARS, March ARB, Riverside, California.
11. February 2018 – June 2018, Special Assistant to the Chief, Strategy and Plans Division (REXS), Pentagon, Washington D.C.
12. July 2018 – August 2021, Individual Mobilization Augmentee to the Deputy Commander of 20th Air Force, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming.
13. September 2021 – Present, Vice Wing Commander, 315th Airlift Wing, Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Ratings: Command Pilot and Instructor Electronic Warfare Officer

Flight Hours: More than 3000 including 60 combat and combat support sorties

Aircraft Flown: T-37, T-1, E-3, RC-135S/V, OC-135B, WC-135, KC-135R and C-17

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Meritorious Unit Award with three oak leaf clusters

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device and three oak leaf clusters

Combat Readiness Medal with one oak leaf cluster

National Defense Service Medal

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant	August 9, 1996
First Lieutenant	August 9, 1998
Captain	August 9, 2000
Major	August 1, 2006
Lieutenant Colonel	August 1, 2013
Colonel	July 1, 2018

(Current as of October 2021)