



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL JAMES C. "CAL" MERCER

Colonel James C. "Cal" Mercer is the Vice Commander, 436th Airlift Wing, Dover Air Force Base, Del. As vice commander, he serves as assistant to the commander for leadership in the combined C-5 and C-17 wing providing worldwide movement of high priority personnel and cargo. Dover AFB is the home to the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations Center, the Department of Defense's largest aerial port, and the Air Mobility Command Museum.

Colonel Mercer graduated from undergraduate pilot training at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi and then was assigned to Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina to fly the Lockheed C-141B Starlifter. As part of the C-141B program move, he transferred to McGuire Air Force Base as the Special Operations Low Level II (SOLL II) evaluator aircraft commander initial cadre.

Col Mercer next became a member of the Checkmate Division on the Air Staff at the Pentagon. As a member of Checkmate, he was temporarily assigned to Macdill Air Force Base to augment the United State Central Command Staff during the early phases of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM. He also deployed with this headquarters staff prior to the start of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM to draft the daily Commander's Guidance. Following graduation from the Air Force Institute of Technology, Col Mercer became the Operations Officer of a C-21A Learjet squadron at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, tasked with the responsibility for three geographically separated flying units.

He next commanded the 1st Airlift Squadron, Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, where he was responsible for a 175-member unit with selectively manned aircrews directly supporting the President, First Lady, Vice President, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, members of Congress, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Combatant Commanders and foreign dignitaries. The squadron conducted global missions outside of Department of Defense command and control channels on Headquarters, United States Air Force Special Air Missions using specially configured Boeing C-32A and C-40B aircraft.

The colonel is a command pilot with more than 4,100 flying hours in the C-5, C-141A, C-21A, C-40B, and C-32B.

EDUCATION

1990 Bachelor of Science in Astronautical Engineering, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
1997 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
2001 Master's in Business Administration, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama.
2004 Master's degree in Aeronautical Engineering, Air Force Institute of Technology, Dayton, Ohio.
2009 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.



ASSIGNMENTS

1. May 1990 - November 1991, student, undergraduate pilot training, Columbus AFB, Mississippi.
2. April 1992 - July 1997, instructor pilot and flight examiner, 16th Airlift Squadron, Charleston Air Base, South Carolina.
3. July 1997 - April 2001, Standardization and Evaluation Pilot, 6th Airlift Squadron and 50th Operations Group, McGuire AFB, New Jersey.
4. April 2001 – July 2003, Checkmate Division, Headquarters Air Force, Washington, DC.
5. July 2003 - July 2004, student, Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio.
6. October 2004 - April 2006, Operations Officer and Commander, 458th Airlift Squadron, Scott AFB, Illinois.
7. April 2006 - July 2008, Commander, 1st Airlift Squadron, Andrews AFB, Maryland.
8. July 2008 - June 2009, student, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.
11. July 2009 - August 2010, Chief, Deployment Distribution Operations Center, United States Transportation Command, Scott AFB, Illinois.
12. August 2010 – July 2011, Chief, East Division, United States Transportation Command, Scott AFB, Illinois.
13. July – 2011 – present, Vice Commander, 436th Airlift Wing, Dover Air Force Base, DE.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command pilot

Flight hours: More than 4,100

Aircraft flown: C-5, C-141A, C-21A, C-40B, C-32B

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Superior Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Air Medal

Aerial Achievement Medal

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant: May 30, 1990

First Lieutenant: May 30, 1992

Captain: May 30, 1994

Major: July 1, 2001

Lieutenant Colonel: May 1, 2005

Colonel: September 1, 2010

(Current as of June 2011)