



# BIOGRAPHY

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### COLONEL GREGORY W. LAIR

Colonel Gregory W. Lair is the Director of Joint Operations and Training, Joint Force Headquarters, South Dakota National Guard and Director of Air Operations and Training, South Dakota Air National Guard, located at Joe Foss Field, Sioux Falls, SD. He is the Joint Staff principal advisor on all joint and air operations and training matters and policies relating to the Defense Support to Civil Authorities and Homeland Defense.

Colonel Lair began his military career in 1983 when he enlisted into the Air National Guard as an A-7D Avionics Technician. After receiving a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Science from Metropolitan State College, Denver, CO, he was selected as a Fighter Pilot with the South Dakota Air National Guard. He received his commission through the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science and then completed pilot training at Vance AFB, Oklahoma. In 1994, he was selected as a Flying Training Instructor. Five years later, he joined United Airlines transitioning back to drill status, continuing his service in numerous man-day and AGR positions as a traditional guardsman.

Prior to Director of Operations, he held positions of 114<sup>th</sup> Vice Commander, 114<sup>th</sup> Operations Group Commander, 175<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron Commander, 114<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Flight Commander, Flight Commander, Weapons and Tactics Officer, Chief of Current Operations, and served two tours at the Air National Guard Readiness Center as Aerospace Control Alert Officer. In his civilian capacity, the Colonel currently is a Boeing 777 pilot for United Airlines on international routes.



Colonel Lair is a command pilot with over 3,400 military flying hours. He has over 262 combat hours flying 71 missions in support of Operation Provide Comfort II, Southern & Northern Watch, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Noble Eagle.

#### EDUCATION

- 1989 Bachelor of Science, Metropolitan State College, Denver, CO
- 1990 Academy of Military Science, McGhee Tyson ANGB, TN
- 1998 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala, by correspondence
- 2003 Air Command & Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala, by correspondence
- 2009 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala, by correspondence
- 2019 Joint Task Force Commanders Course, Peterson AFB, CO (NORTHCOM), in-residence
- 2019 Dual Status Commanders Course, Peterson AFB, CO (NORTHCOM), in-residence

#### ASSIGNMENTS

1. July 1983 – July 1989, A-7D Weapons Control System Mechanic, 140th FW, Buckley ANGB, CO
2. July 1989 – January 1990, A-7D Weapons Control System Mechanic, 114th FW, Joe Foss Field, SD
3. January 1990 – February 1990, Academy of Military Science, McGee Tyson ANGB, TN
4. September 1990 – October 1991, Student Pilot, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Vance AFB, OK
5. November 1991 – December 1991, Student Pilot, Lead-In Fighter Training, Holloman AFB, N.M.

6. January 1992 – September 1992, Student Pilot, F-16C training, 63rd FS Mac Dill AFB, FL
7. September 1992 – October 1994, F-16C Mission Pilot, 175th Fighter Squadron, Joe Foss Field, SD
8. October 1994 – October 1995, Current Ops, 114th Operations Support Flight, Joe Foss Field, SD
9. October 1995 – May 1996, Chief, Current Ops, 114th Operations Support Flight, Joe Foss Field, SD
10. April 1996 – June 1996, Instructor Pilot Course, F-16C, 61st Fighter Squadron, Luke AFB, AZ
11. July 1996 – May 1997, Chief, Current Ops, 114th Operations Support Flight, Joe Foss Field, SD
12. May 1997 – December 1998, OIC Weapons and Tactics, 114th OSF, Joe Foss Field, SD
13. December 1998 – June 2000, OIC Current Operations, 114th OSF, Joe Foss Field, SD
14. July 2000 – December 2010, Flight Commander, 175th Fighter Squadron, Joe Foss Field, SD
15. December 2010 – April 2012, Commander, 114th Operations Support Flight, Joe Foss Field, SD
16. April 2012 – September 2014, Commander, 175th Fighter Squadron, Joe Foss Field, SD
17. October 2014 – April 2016, Commander, 114th Operations Group, Joe Foss Field, SD
18. May 2016 – December 2017, Vice Commander, 114th Fighter Wing, Joe Foss Field, SD
19. January 2018 – Present, Director of Air Operations (A-3/7), Headquarters SDANG, Joe Foss Field, SD
20. April 2018 – Present, Director of Joint Operations (J-3/7), Joint Force Headquarters SDNG, Camp Rapid, SD

## **FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Rating: Command pilot

Military Flight hours: More than 3,400

Aircraft flown: T-37, T-38, AT-38B, F-16

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Legion of Merit

Meritorious Service Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with oak leaf cluster

Aerial Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster

Air Force Commendation Medal

Air Force Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster

Joint Meritorious Unit Award

Meritorious Unit Award with oak leaf cluster

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with 5 oak leaf cluster

Combat Readiness Medal with 9 oak leaf clusters

Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters

National Defense Service Medal with 1 star

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Southwest Asia Service Medal with 1 star

Iraq Campaign Medal with 2 stars

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with gold border, 2 oak leaf clusters

Air Force Longevity Service with 7 devices

Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 3 'M' devices

Basic Military Training Honor Graduate

Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (Pistol)

Air Force Training Ribbon with oak leaf cluster

State of South Dakota Distinguished Service Award

State of South Dakota Emergency Operations Ribbon

State of South Dakota National Guard Service with 3 devices

State of South Dakota Desert Storm Ribbon

## **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant February 15, 1990

First Lieutenant January 9, 1993

Captain February 4, 1995

Major February 6, 1999

Lieutenant Colonel February 6, 2006

Colonel October 1, 2014

(Current as of November 2018)