



# BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

## COLONEL SHAWN J. GAFFNEY

Colonel Shawn J. Gaffney is the Vice Wing Commander for the 128<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing (ARW), General Mitchell Field Milwaukee, Wisconsin. As vice commander, he assists the wing commander in overseeing more than 900 personnel assigned to the Wing who support the worldwide aerial refueling mission and enable the combat employment of the unit's ten KC-135R Stratotankers. The wing is comprised of four groups and a wing headquarters that provide ready and responsive citizen Airmen to meet state and national mission taskings.

Colonel Gaffney is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and received his pilot's wings in July 1994 at Laughlin AFB, TX. He has flown the KC-135R as an instructor pilot and is a veteran of Operations, IRAQI FREEDOM, ENDURING FREEDOM, JOINT FORGE AND ENDEAVOR, ALLIED FORCE, and UNIFIED PROTECTOR with over 100 total combat sorties. Previous assignments include Commander of the 128 ARW Mission Support Group, Commander of the 126<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron, Flight Commander/Evaluator Pilot and Flight Safety Officer at the 128<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, Milwaukee Wisconsin.



Col Gaffney received his commission from the Academy of Military Sciences in 1993. He is a command pilot with more than 4200 flying hours and 617 hours of combat time in the KC-135E/R/T, T-37 and T-38.

## EDUCATION

- 1989 Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, University of Notre Dame
- 1991 Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, University of Notre Dame
- 1993 Academy of Military Science, McGhee Tyson ANGB, TN
- 1994 Undergraduate Pilot Training, Laughlin AFB, TX
- 1994 Top Graduate, KC-135 Combat Crew Training School, Castle AFB, CA
- 1995 Combat Survival School, Fairchild AFB, WA.
- 1996 Air Mobility Command Tactics School, McGuire AFB, NJ
- 1997 KC-135E Aircraft Commander Upgrade Course, McClellan, AFB, CA.
- 1998 USAF Aircraft Mishap Investigation Course, Kirtland AFB, NM
- 1999 Squadron Officers School, by correspondence
- 2001 KC-135 Instructor Pilot Course, Altus AFB, OK
- 2004 Air Command and Staff School by correspondence
- 2006 Advanced Instrument Instructor Pilot Course, Randolph AFB, TX
- 2009 USAF Aircraft Mishap Investigation Board President School, Kirtland AFB, NM
- 2013 Air War College by correspondence

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. June 1993 – July 1994, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Laughlin AFB, TX
2. August 1994 – November 1994, Combat Crew Training School, Castle AFB, CA
3. December 1994 – July 1999, KC-135E Aircraft Commander/Safety Officer 126 ARW, Chicago, IL
4. August 1999 – September 2001, KC-135R Aircraft Commander, 128 ARW, Milwaukee WI.
5. October 2001 – August 2006, KC-135R Instructor Pilot/Safety Officer, 128 ARW, Milwaukee, WI.
6. September 2006 – June 2008, Advanced Instrument Instructor Pilot, 128 ARW, Milwaukee, WI.
7. June 2008 – June 2011, Assistant Flight Commander / Evaluator Pilot, 128 ARW, Milwaukee, WI.
8. July 2011 – November 2012, Flight Commander / Evaluator Pilot, 128 ARW Milwaukee, WI.
9. December 2012 – July 2014, Commander 126 Air Refueling Squadron, Milwaukee, WI.
10. August 2014 – November 2016, Commander, 128 ARW Mission Support Group, Milwaukee, WI.
11. December 2016 – June 2017, Director of Strategic Plans and Programs, WI JFHQ, Madison, WI.
12. July 2017 – Present, Vice Wing Commander, 128<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, Milwaukee, WI.

## **FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight Hours: More than 4,200

Aircraft Flown: KC-135/E/R/T, T-37, T-38

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

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

Air Force Achievement Medal

Meritorious Unit Award with five oak leaf clusters

AF Outstanding Unit Award with three oak leaf clusters

Combat Readiness Medal with six oak leaf clusters

National Defense Service Medal with campaign star

Afghanistan Campaign Medal with three campaign stars

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal with bronze service star

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Armed Forces Service Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal

Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Air Force Overseas Short Tour

Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with gold border and two oak leaf clusters

Air Force Longevity Service with silver oak leaf cluster

Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 4 'M' devices

Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon

Air Force Training Ribbon

## **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant April 1, 1993

First Lieutenant April 2, 1995

Captain April 5, 1997

Major April 5, 2001

Lieutenant Colonel April 5, 2008

Colonel August 1, 2014

(Current as of *September 2017*)