



# BIOGRAPHY

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### COLONEL CHRISTOPHER L WHEELER

Colonel Christopher L. Wheeler is the Director, Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. He is responsible for the Air Force's high school citizenship training program for more than 105,000 students at over 889 high schools worldwide and managing more than 1,800 instructors. Colonel Wheeler directs staff initiatives and policy to implement the world's largest and most comprehensive aerospace science education program. He develops policies and procedures for the day-to-day operation of the AFJROTC program; establishes standards for unit operations, instructor qualifications and cadet performance; screens, approves and certifies instructors; establishes and disestablishes AFJROTC units; establishes the curriculum; and provides equipment, supplies and uniforms to AFJROTC units. Colonel Wheeler also monitors distribution of 10 percent of AFROTC scholarships for officer candidates allocated to AFJROTC.



Colonel Wheeler was commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at California State University, Sacramento, and entered active duty in October 1990. In 1991, he completed the Air Traffic Control Officer Training Program as a distinguished graduate. In 1996, he completed Squadron Officers School as his unit's top graduate and, in 2004, completed the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. Colonel Wheeler commanded two squadrons: the 506th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, Iraq, and the 412th Operations Support Squadron. He was the deputy commander, 96th Mission Support Group, and served as the deputy commander, 376th Expeditionary Mission Support Group, Kyrgyzstan. The colonel has served in key positions in airfield operations and mission support, including Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe and numerous deployments.

### EDUCATION

1990 Bachelor's degree in management information systems, California State University, Sacramento

1996 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

2001 Master's degree in airway science, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (distance learning)

2004 U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

2008 Air War College (correspondence), Air University

2011 Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

### ASSIGNMENTS

1. October 1990 – December 1991, student, Air Traffic Control Basic Course, Keesler AFB, Miss.
2. January 1991 – November 1991, student, Air Traffic Control Officer Training Program, Shaw AFB, S.C.

3. November 1991 – April 1995, flight commander, airfield operations, Hill AFB, Utah
4. April 1995 – July 1997, deputy chief, airfield operations, Tyndall AFB, Fla.
5. July 1997 – July 2000, flight commander, airfield operations, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany
6. July 2000 – June 2003, chief, functional management division, Headquarters Air Force Flight Standards, Andrews AFB, Md.
7. June 2003 – January 2005, student, U.S. Army Command and General Staff Officer Course, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
8. January 2005 – July 2005, Commander, 506th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, Kirkuk AB, Iraq
9. July 2005 – June 2006, Chief, airfield operations/procedures, Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Ramstein Air Base, Germany
10. June 2006 – April 2008, Commander, 412th Operations Support Squadron, Edwards AFB, Calif.
11. April 2008 – July 2010, Deputy Commander, 96th Mission Support Group, Eglin AFB, Fla.
12. July 2010 – July 2011, student, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
13. July 2011 - August 2011, Chief, operations division, AFJROTC, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
14. August 2011 – present, Director, AFJROTC, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

#### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Meritorious Service Medal with one silver leaf cluster

Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Joint Service Achievement Medal

Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters and one bronze V device

Meritorious Unit Award

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with one oak leaf cluster

National Defense Service Medal with gold star

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Armed Forces Expeditionary Service Medal

Iraqi Campaign Medal with gold star

Humanitarian Service Medal

Air Force Overseas Long Ribbon with one oak leaf cluster

Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border

Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (Pistol)

#### **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant May 20, 1990

First Lieutenant May 20, 1992

Captain May 20, 1994

Major May 1, 2001

Lieutenant Colonel May 1, 2006

Colonel November 1, 2011

(Current as of November 2011)