



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT BENJAMIN W. HEDDEN

Chief Master Sergeant Benjamin W. Hedden is the Command Chief for, United States Air Forces in Europe and United States Air Forces Africa, with headquarters at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. As the command chief, he is the senior enlisted advisor to the commander on all matters affecting the readiness, training, professional development and effective utilization of more than 35,000 total force personnel. Additionally, he coordinates with the headquarters staff, commanders, and senior personnel on development and implementation of command policy and direction. As the air component senior enlisted leader to both United States European Command and United States Africa Command, the chief champions and directs enlisted theater security engagement efforts, as well as building partnership capacity in an area of responsibility comprising 104 countries spanning 19 million square miles.

Chief Hedden grew up in Las Vegas, Nevada, and enlisted in the Air Force in August 1995. He began his career as an Aerospace Ground Equipment Apprentice. He has extensive back shop and flight line maintenance experience having served in multiple leadership positions at the Group, Squadron and Flight level. Chief Hedden has been stationed at locations in Louisiana, United Kingdom, Arizona, Republic of Korea, Texas, New Mexico, Nevada, Florida, and South Carolina. He spent more than four years as a Military Training Instructor and was awarded the Master Military Training Instructor "Blue Rope". He has been involved in operations: JOINT FORGE, ALLIED FORCE, SOUTHERN WATCH, NOBLE EAGLE, ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, and INHERENT RESOLVE.



Prior to his current position, Chief Master Sgt. Hedden served as the 15th Air Force Command Chief at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina.

EDUCATION

- 2000 Airman Leadership School, RAF Feltwell, United Kingdom
- 2002 Associates in Applied Science in Aerospace Ground Equipment Technology, Community College of the Air Force
- 2003 Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Lackland AFB, Texas
- 2006 Associates in Applied Science in Instructor of Technology and Military Science, Community College of the Air Force
- 2008 Marine Corps Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy Advance Course, Quantico, Va.
- 2013 AFSSO21 Senior Leader Course, University of Tennessee
- 2015 Enterprise Leadership Seminar, Kenan-Flagler Business School, University of N.C.
- 2016 Middle East and Southwest Asia Seminar, Washington D.C.
- 2016 Senior Enlisted Legal Orientation Course, Judge Advocate General's School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2017 Keystone Command Senior Enlisted Leader Course, National Defense University, Washington D.C.
- 2018 Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics degree, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Fla.
- 2019 Security Cooperation Management Executive Course, Defense Institute of Security Cooperation Studies
- 2019 Summit Course, Joint Special Operations University, United States Special Operations Command (SOCOM)
- 2020 National and International Security Leadership Seminar, Washington D.C.
- 2021 Space Executive Course, National Security Space Institute, Peterson AFB, Colo.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 1995 – September 1995, trainee, Basic Military Training, Lackland AFB, Texas
2. September 1995 – March 1996, student, Aerospace Ground Equipment Apprentice, Sheppard AFB, Texas
3. March 1996 – July 1998, Aerospace Ground Equipment Apprentice, 2d Maintenance Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La.
4. July 1998 – July 2001, Aerospace Ground Equipment Journeyman, 48th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom (March 1999 – June 1999, Aerospace Ground Equipment Journeyman, 501st Expeditionary Logistics Squadron, Cervia AB, Italy; December 2000 – March 2001, Aerospace Ground Equipment Journeyman, 332d Expeditionary Logistics Squadron, Ahmed Al Jaber AB, Kuwait)
5. July 2001 – October 2004, Aerospace Ground Equipment Craftsman, 355th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., (November 2002 – March 2003, Aerospace Ground Equipment Craftsman, 41st Expeditionary Electronic Combat Squadron, Southwest Asia; November 2003 – March 2004, Transient Alert Team Shift Leader, 506th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, Kirkuk AB, Iraq)
6. October 2004 – October 2005, Production Support Section Leader, 51st Maintenance Squadron, Osan AB, Republic of Korea
7. October 2005 – October 2006, Military Training Instructor, 324th Training Squadron, Lackland AFB, Texas
8. October 2006 – December 2008, Section Supervisor, 324th Training Squadron, Lackland AFB, Texas
9. December 2008 – June 2009, Standardization and Evaluation Team Member, 737th Training Group, Lackland AFB, Texas
10. June 2009 – December 2009, Superintendent, Training Flight, 319th Training Squadron, Lackland AFB, Texas
11. December 2009 – July 2010, Superintendent, Standardization and Evaluation Flight, 737th Training Group, Lackland AFB, Texas
12. July 2010 – May 2011, Propulsion Flight Chief, 58th Maintenance Squadron, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
13. May 2011 – April 2012, Superintendent, Quality Assurance, 58th Maintenance Group, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
14. April 2012 – March 2013, Superintendent, 71st Aircraft Maintenance Unit, 58th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
15. March 2013 – December 2013, Superintendent, 58th Maintenance Squadron, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
16. December 2013 – August 2015, Superintendent, 53d Test and Evaluation Group, Nellis AFB, Nev.
17. August 2015 – May 2017, Command Chief, 80th Flying Training Wing, Sheppard AFB, Texas
18. May 2017 – June 2018, Command Chief, 332d Air Expeditionary Wing, Southwest Asia
19. June 2018 – June 2019, Superintendent, United States Central Command, MacDill AFB, Fla.
20. June 2019 – August 2020, Command Chief, Ninth Air Force, Shaw AFB, S.C.
21. August 2020 – August 2021, Command Chief, 15th Air Force, Shaw AFB, S.C.
22. August 2021 – Present, Command Chief, United States Air Forces in Europe - Air Forces Africa, Ramstein Air Base, Germany

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters
Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

1998 Senior Airman Below the Zone
2004 Junior Enlisted Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award Nominee, 51st Fighter Wing
2006 Distinguished Graduate and Commandants Award, Military Training Instructor School, Lackland AFB, Texas
2008 Presidents Honor Roll, Marine Corp Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy Advance Course, Quantico, Va.
2011 Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, 58th Special Operations Wing, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
2018 Summa cum laude, Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics degree, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

EFFECTIVE DATE OF PROMOTION

Chief Master Sergeant Sept. 1, 2013

(Current as of August 2021)