



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL JOHN F. GONZALES

Colonel John F. Gonzales is the Vice Commander, Third Air Force, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Third Air Force exercises delegated authorities over assigned forces that include personnel management, General Courts Martial Convening Authority, and advising subordinate commands on requirements, programs, and budget. Third Air Force also works with its subordinate commands to ensure implementation and compliance with relevant policies and directives of the Department of Defense, Headquarters Air Force, and USAFE-AFAFRICA.

Colonel Gonzales entered the Air Force in 1996 after commissioning through ROTC at the University of New Mexico. He earned his wings at the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training program, Sheppard Air Force Base. Col Gonzales has commanded at the wing, group, and squadron level while also serving at the NAF, MAJCOM, and Joint Staff levels.

Colonel Gonzales is a command pilot with more than 2,400 flying hours and 179 combat hours. He has participated in Operations SOUTHERN WATCH, ENDURING FREEDOM, UNIFIED RESPONSE, DEEP WATER HORIZON, and INHERENT RESOLVE.



Prior to assuming his current position, Col Gonzales was the Commander of the 51st Fighter Wing, Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea. In this role, he was responsible for over 5,500 personnel and the employment of F-16 and A-10C fighter aircraft.

EDUCATION

- 1996 Bachelor of Science, Mathematics, University of New Mexico, NM.
- 2003 Distinguished Graduate, Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2006 Distinguished Graduate, U.S. Air Force Weapons School, Nellis AFB, Nev.
- 2008 Master of Science, Military Operational Art and Science, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2009 Master of Science, Airpower Art and Science, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2013 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2015 National Defense Fellow, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Medford, Mass.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. July 1996 – October 1996, Special Assistant to the Commander, AFROTC Det 510, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM.
2. November 1996 – July 1998, Student, Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training, Sheppard AFB, TX.
3. August 1998 – April 1999, Student, A-10 Formal Training Unit, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ.
4. May 1999 – May 2000, Pilot and Battalion Air Liaison Officer, 25th Fighter Squadron, Osan AB, Republic of Korea
5. June 2000 – May 2003, Instructor Pilot, 355th Fighter Squadron, Eielson AFB, AK.
6. June 2003 – June 2007, Instructor Pilot and Chief of Weapons and Tactics, 9th Fighter Squadron, Holloman AFB, NM.
7. July 2007 – June 2008, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
8. July 2008 – June 2009, Student, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, AL.
9. July 2009 – January 2011, Chief, Strategy Division, 612th Air Operations Center, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ.
10. February 2011 – December 2012, Chief of Safety, 23d Wing, Moody AFB, GA
(April 2012 – October 2012, Chief of Safety, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, Bagram AB, Afghanistan)
11. January 2013 – June 2014, Commander, 23d Operations Support Squadron, Moody AFB, GA.
12. July 2014 – June 2015, National Defense Fellow, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University,

Medford, MA.

13. June 2015 – June 2017, Deputy Chief, Iran, Iraq, Syria Division, Middle East Directorate, Joint Staff J5, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
14. June 2017 – June 2018, Commander, 407th Air Expeditionary Group, Undisclosed location, Southwest Asia
15. July 2018 – June 2019, Chief, Flight Operations Division, Operations Directorate, Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA.
16. June 2019 – June 2021, Commander, 51st Fighter Wing, Osan AB, Republic of Korea
17. June 2021 – Present, Vice Commander, Third Air Force, Ramstein Air Base, Germany

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

June 2015 – June 2017, Deputy Chief, Iran, Iraq, Syria Division, Middle East Directorate, Joint Staff J5, Pentagon, Washington, D.C., as a Colonel

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: more than 2,400, including 179 combat hours

Aircraft flown: A-10C, F-117, T-38, A-10A

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Superior Service Medal

Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster

Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Air Medal

Aerial Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal

Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

1996 Distinguished Graduate, U.S. Air Force ROTC, University of New Mexico

2003 Distinguished Graduate, Squadron Officer School

2006 Distinguished Graduate and Flying Award, U.S. Air Force Weapons School

2012 ACC Flight Safety Program of the Year (455 AEW, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan)

2016 Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Selection to SAIS Basin Harbor Seminar

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant June 1996

First Lieutenant June 1998

Captain June 2000

Major June 2006

Lieutenant Colonel March 2010

Colonel May 2016

(Current as of July 2021)