



## Biography

# National Guard Bureau

Departments of the Army and Air Force  
Ohio Air National Guard, 121<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing

## COLONEL JAMES M. PFAFF



Colonel James M. Pfaff is the Vice Commander, 121<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing (121 ARW), Ohio Air National Guard, located at Rickenbacker International Airport (RIAP), Columbus, Ohio. As vice wing commander, he is responsible for 1,400 Guard personnel and the operation of two KC-135 tanker aircraft squadrons. Col Pfaff was commissioned as a Distinguished Graduate of the Air Force ROTC program at the University of Cincinnati. He served as a navigator assigned to the Strategic Air Command, flying tanker and reconnaissance aircraft before joining the Ohio ANG. He also served as ANG Liaison Officer at Headquarters, Air Mobility Command, and has been a Squadron and Group Commander.

### EDUCATION:

1982 Bachelor's Degree, General Studies, University of Cincinnati  
1982 Distinguished Graduate, AFROTC  
1988 Squadron Officer School (Correspondence & Residence)  
1995 Air Command and Staff College (Seminar)  
2001 Air War College (Correspondence)  
2004 Master's Degree, Military Studies, American Military University (with Honors)

### FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Master Navigator  
Flight hours: More than 3,500 (300 Combat/Combat Support)  
Aircraft flown: T-37, T-43A, KC-135A/D/E/Q/R/T; RC-135S/X; EC-135G/L; TC-135S

### ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Mar 1983 - Mar 1984 Undergraduate Navigator Training, Advanced Navigation Training, 323rd Flying Training Wing, Mather AFB, CA.
2. Mar 1984 - Aug 1984 KC-135 Combat Crew Training, 4017th Combat Crew Training Squadron, Castle AFB, CA.
3. Aug 1984 - Nov 1988 KC/EC-135 Navigator/Instructor Navigator, 305th Air Refueling Squadron, Grissom AFB, IN.
4. Nov 1988 - Aug 1991 RC-135 Navigator/Evaluator Navigator; Chief, Emergency War Order Operations; Chief, Mission Development, 6th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, Eielson AFB, AK.
5. Aug 1991 – Sep 1998 KC-135 Instructor/Evaluator Navigator; Wing Scheduling Officer; Operations Support Squadron Operations Officer, 121st Air Refueling Wing, Rickenbacker IAP, OH.
6. Oct 1998 – Jul 2002 ANG Advisor, Directorate of Plans and Programs; ANG Operations Officer, Directorate of Operations, Headquarters, Air Mobility Command; ANG Liaison Officer, Tanker Airlift Control Center Scott AFB, IL.
7. Jul 2002 – Jan 2005 Commander, 121st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Rickenbacker IAP, OH.
8. Jan 2005 – Sep 2006 Commander, 121st Maintenance Group, Rickenbacker IAP, OH.
9. Sep 2006 – present Vice Commander, 121st Air Refueling Wing, Rickenbacker IAP, OH.

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

Meritorious Service Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters  
 Aerial Achievement Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters  
 Air Force Commendation Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster  
 Air Force Achievement Medal  
 Joint Meritorious Unit Award  
 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters  
 Combat Readiness Medal with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters  
 Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with 2 Bronze Service Stars  
 Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal  
 Armed Forces Service Medal  
 NATO Medal

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

Second Lieutenant	6 August 1982
First Lieutenant	21 November 1984
Captain	21 November 1986
Major	25 September 1993
Lieutenant Colonel	29 June 2000
Colonel	28 April 2006

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