



Biography

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

35th Fighter Wing
Office of Public Affairs
Misawa Air Base, Japan 96319-5009

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COLONEL DONALD C. WECKHORST



Colonel Donald Weckhorst is vice commander of the 35th Fighter Wing, Misawa Air Base, Japan. The fighter wing is composed of more than 3,800 personnel with an annual facilities and operations and maintenance budget of more than \$135 million. In addition, the base supports eight additional units from all four services and the Japan Air Self Defense Force.

The colonel earned his Air Force commission in 1980 through Officer Training School. A command pilot, he has more than 3,300 combined hours in the A-10, F-5 and F-16. During his career, he has flown 33 combat missions in support of Operation Southern Watch and served as a flight commander, operations officer, fighter squadron commander and air operations group commander. Prior to his current assignment, Colonel Weckhorst served as commander, 605th Air Operations Group, Yokota Air Base, Japan.

EDUCATION:

- 1980 Bachelor's degree in political science, Christopher Newport College, Newport News, Va.
- 1981 Undergraduate pilot training, Vance Air Force Base, Okla.
- 1985 Fighter Weapons School, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.
- 1986 Squadron Officers School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 1987 F-5 Fighter Weapons School, Williams Air Force Base, Ariz.
- 1990 Master's degree in public administration, Golden Gate University, Calif.
- 1993 Air Command and Staff College, seminar program
- 1994 Army Command and Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
- 1999 Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., Master's degree in strategic studies

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. April 1980 - April 1981, undergraduate pilot training, Vance Air Force Base, Okla.

2. February 1982 - August 1986, instructor pilot, squadron scheduler, flight commander and chief, squadron weapons and tactics, 511th Tactical Fighter Squadron and 92nd Tactical Fighter Squadron, Royal Air Force Bentwaters, United Kingdom
3. October 1986 - June 1989, chief, air-to-ground division, F-5 Fighter Weapons School and flight commander, 425th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron, Williams Air Force Base, Ariz.
4. June 1989 - April 1992, chief, squadron weapons and tactics and flight commander, 311th Tactical Fighter Squadron and 312th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.
5. May 1992 - June 1993, F-16 international program manager action officer, Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Va.
6. July 1993 - June 1994, student, Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
7. September 1994 - June 1998, current operations flight commander, 35th Operations Support Squadron; operation officer, 13th Fighter Squadron; and commander, 14th Fighter Squadron, Misawa, Air Base, Japan
8. July 1998 - June 1999, student, Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
9. July 1999 - April 2001, deputy chief, then chief, weapons division, Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs, Washington, D.C.
10. May 2001 - June 2003, commander, 605th Air Operations Group, Yokota Air Base, Japan
11. June 2003 - present, vice commander, 35th Fighter Wing, Misawa Air Base, Japan

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Command Pilot
 Flight Hours: More than 3,300
 Aircraft flown: F-16, F-5, A-10

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters
 Air Medal
 Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster
 Aerial Achievement Medal
 Combat Readiness Medal with one oak leaf cluster
 National Defense Service Medal
 Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second lieutenant	April 1980
First lieutenant	April 1982
Captain	May 1984
Major	March 1993
Lieutenant colonel	May 1997
Colonel	April 2001