



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



COLONEL Erik A. Peterson

Col. Erik A. Peterson is the commander of the 115th Fighter Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard, Truax Field, Madison, Wisconsin. As commander, he is responsible for the organization, training and equipping of nearly 1,200 active-guard and traditional forces serving the dual mission of state and federal responsibility falling under the governor of Wisconsin and President of the United States. The 115th Fighter Wing operates the F-16C+ "Fighting Falcon" as its primary weapon system, as well as the RC-26B aircraft in the global Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) mission.

Colonel Peterson received his commission in 1991 after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy. His past assignments include maintenance officer at Luke AFB and flying duties as a flight lead, instructor and evaluator pilot in the 18th Fighter Squadron, Eielson AFB, AK and the 34th Fighter Squadron, Hill AFB, UT.

Previous commands include the 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Joint Base Balad, Iraq, 176th Fighter Squadron, 115th Fighter Wing Operations Group and 115th Fighter Wing Maintenance Group. Prior to assuming his current position, he served as the 115th Fighter Wing Vice Commander.

Colonel Peterson is a command pilot with more than 2,650 flying hours in the F-16C/D, AT-38A, T-38A, and T-37B.



EDUCATION

- 1991 Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical engineering, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO.
- 1995 Squadron Officer School (Residence)
- 2000 Master of Aeronautical Science degree, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, FL.
- 2003 Air Command and Staff College (Non-Residence)
- 2008 Air War College (Non-Residence)
- 2013 Advanced Joint Professional Military Education (Residence)

ASSIGNMENTS

1. September 1991 – September 1992, student, undergraduate pilot training, Williams AFB, AZ.
2. September 1992 – January 1995, maintenance officer, armament flight commander, 57th Logistics Group and assistant squadron maintenance officer for the 310th Fighter Squadron Aircraft Maintenance Unit.

3. January 1995 – May 1996, student, requalification training, introduction to fighter fundamentals, and F-16 initial qualification training, Vance AFB, OK, Randolph AFB, TX, and Luke AFB, AZ.
4. May 1996 – July 1999, F-16 pilot, training officer, scheduling officer, and flight safety officer for the 18th Fighter Squadron, Eielson AFB, AK.
5. July 1999 – March 2001, instructor pilot, evaluator pilot, standardization and evaluation officer, and flight commander for the 34th Fighter Squadron, Hill AFB, UT.
6. March 2001 – August 2005, instructor pilot, evaluator pilot, wing chief of safety, weapons officer, and assistant operations officer for the 176th Fighter Squadron, Truax Field, WI.
7. August 2005 – August 2008, operations officer, 176th Fighter Squadron, Truax Field, WI.
8. August 2008 – August 2010, Commander, 176th Fighter Squadron, Truax Field, WI.
9. September 2010 – September 2012, Commander, 115th Operations Group, Truax Field, WI.
10. October 2012 – June 2013, Commander, 115th Maintenance Group, Truax Field, WI.
11. June 2013 – September 2016, Vice Commander, 115th Fighter Wing, Truax Field, WI.
12. October 2016 – Present, Commander, 115th Fighter Wing, Truax Field, WI.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight Hours: More than 2650

Aircraft Flown: F-16 C/D, AT-38A, T-38A, and T-37B

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal (with three gold oak leaf clusters)

Legion of Merit

Air Medal (with one gold oak leaf cluster)

Air Force Commendation Medal (with two gold oak leaf clusters)

Meritorious Unit Award (with one gold oak leaf cluster)

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (with one silver oak leaf cluster and two gold oak leaf cluster)

Combat Readiness Medal (with one silver oak leaf cluster)

National Defense Service Medal (with bronze star)

Iraq Campaign Medal (with bronze star)

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Air Force Overseas Ribbon Long

Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border (with two gold oak leaf clusters)

Air Force Longevity Service (with one silver oak leaf clusters)

Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with 1 'M' Device)

Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (Pistol)

Air Force Training Ribbon

Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant 29 May 1991

First Lieutenant 29 May 1993

Captain 29 May 1995

Major 12 July 2001

Lieutenant Colonel 4 February 2007

Colonel 2 March 2011

(Current as of October 2016)