



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL ERIK A. PETERSON

Colonel 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 the President of the United States of America. The 115th Fighter Wing operates the F-16 Fighting Falcon as its primary weapon system, as well as the RC-26B aircraft in the global Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance mission.

Col. Peterson graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering. He began his past assignments as the maintenance officer and flying duties as a flight lead for Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. He then became an instructor and evaluator pilot for the 18th Fighter Squadron, Eielson AFB, Alaska, and the 34th Fighter Squadron, Hill AFB, Utah. Col. Peterson's 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 his current position, the colonel was the Vice Commander of the 115th Fighter Wing, Truax Field, Madison, Wisconsin.



Col. Peterson is a command pilot with more than 2,650 flying hours in the F-16C/D Fighting Falcon, AT-38A Talon II, Northrop T-38A Talon, and Cessna T-37B Tweet.

EDUCATION

- 1991 Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- 1995 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2000 Master of Aeronautical Science degree, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Fla.
- 2003 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2008 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2013 Advanced Joint Professional Military Education—Reserve Component, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. September 1991–September 1992, Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Williams AFB, Ariz.
2. September 1992–January 1995, Maintenance Officer, Armament Flight Commander, 57th Logistics Group and Assistant Squadron Maintenance Officer, 310th Fighter Squadron Aircraft Maintenance Unit, Luke AFB, Ariz.
3. January 1995–May 1996, Student, Requalification Training, Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals, and F-16 Initial Qualification Training, Vance AFB, Okla., Randolph AFB, Texas, and Luke AFB, Ariz.
4. May 1996–July 1999, F-16 pilot, Training Officer, Scheduling Officer, and Flight Safety Officer for the 18th Fighter Squadron, Eielson AFB, Alaska.
5. July 1999–March 2001, Instructor Pilot, Evaluator Pilot, Standardization and Evaluation Officer, and Flight Commander for the 34th Fighter Squadron, Hill AFB, Utah.

ASSIGNMENTS CON'T.

6. March 2001–August 2005, Instructor Pilot, Evaluator Pilot, Wing Chief of Safety, Weapons Officer, and Assistant Operations Officer, 176th Fighter Squadron, Truax Field, Wis.
7. August 2005–August 2008, Operations Officer, 176th Fighter Squadron, Truax Field, Wis.
8. August 2008–August 2010, Commander, 176th Fighter Squadron, Truax Field, Wis.
9. September 2010–September 2012, Commander, 115th Operations Group, Truax Field, Wis.
10. October 2012–June 2013, Commander, 115th Maintenance Group, Truax Field, Wis.
11. June 2013–September 2016, Vice Commander, 115th Fighter Wing, Truax Field, Wis.
12. October 2016–Present, Commander, 115th Fighter Wing, Truax Field, Wis.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: command pilot

Flight hours: more than 2,650

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

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with oak leaf cluster

Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 29, 1991

First Lieutenant May 29, 1993

Captain May 29, 1995

Major July 12, 2001

Lieutenant Colonel Feb. 4, 2007

Colonel March 2, 2011

(Current as of November 2017)