



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL ROBERT O. BECKENHAUER

Colonel Rob Beckenhauer is the Deputy Commander for the 521st Air Mobility Operations Wing, headquartered on Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The Wing consists of nearly 2,000 Total Force Airmen organized across 2 Air Mobility Operations Groups and 9 squadrons, providing command and control, enroute maintenance support, and air transportation services for theater and strategic air mobility missions. The Wing operates out of 19 locations spanning 5,000 miles across Europe, Africa and Southwest Asia in support of 4 combatant commands in 3 areas of responsibility.

A 2003 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Col Beckenhauer completed assignments in the KC-135R/T and the C-37A before being selected to crossflow to the C-17A as part of AMC's Phoenix Reach Program. Following these operational tours, he graduated as a Pol/Mil Affairs Strategist from Air Command and Staff College and completed a Joint tour at U.S. Central Command as the Lebanon Desk Officer and then Branch Chief for the Levant, Egypt, and Iraq. After serving as the Wing Chief of Safety and then commanding the 36th Contingency Response Squadron at Andersen AFB, Guam, he was hired as the Executive Officer to the Commander, Air Force District of Washington. Most recently he completed a National Defense Fellowship at Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of Diplomacy.



Col Beckenhauer is a Command Pilot with over 3,300 hours in the C-17A, KC-135R/T, and C-37A. This includes more than 700 Instructor/Evaluator hours and 1000 combat hours.

EDUCATION

2003 Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Science, U.S. Air Force Academy, CO
2009 Distinguished Graduate, Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, AL
2013 Master of Arts in Military Studies, American Military University, Charles Town, WV
2017 Master of Arts in Military Operational Art & Science, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
2018 Joint & Combined Warfighting School, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA
2019 Malone Fellowship in Arab & Islamic Studies, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, Washington, DC
2024 National Defense Fellowship, Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Georgetown University, Washington, DC

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Feb 2004 - Apr 2005 Student, Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, Vance AFB, OK
2. May 2005 - Sep 2005 Student, KC-135 Pilot Initial Qualification Training, Altus AFB, OK
3. Oct 2005 - Jul 2007 Training Officer & SELO, KC-135 Pilot, 350th Air Refueling Squadron, McConnell AFB, KS
4. Aug 2007 - Sep 2008 Chief of Mobility, KC-135 Aircraft Commander, 350th Air Refueling Sq, McConnell AFB, KS
5. Oct 2008 - Jun 2010 Group Executive Officer, KC-135 Instructor Pilot, 22nd Ops Group, McConnell AFB, KS
6. Jul 2010 - Jan 2012 Ops Support Flight Commander, C-37 Pilot, 309th Airlift Squadron, Chievres AB, Belgium
7. Feb 2012 - Oct 2012 Chief of Current Ops, C-37 Aircraft Commander, 309th Airlift Squadron, Chievres AB, Belgium

8. Nov 2012 - Jun 2013 ADO & Director of Staff, C-17 Aircraft Commander, 16th Airlift Squadron, JB Charleston, SC
9. Jul 2013 - Dec 2014 Chief of Current Ops, C-17 Instructor Pilot, 437th Ops Support Squadron, JB Charleston, SC
10. Dec 2014 - Nov 2015 Director of Staff, C-17 Evaluator Pilot, 437th Operations Group, JB Charleston, SC
11. Nov 2015 - Jun 2016 Chief, Wing Inspector General, C-17 Evaluator Pilot, 437th Airlift Wing, JB Charleston, SC
12. Jul 2016 - May 2017 Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
13. Jun 2017 - Mar 2018 Chief, Political/Military Affairs, Lebanon, CCJ5, USCENTCOM, MacDill AFB, FL
14. Apr 2018 - Jun 2019 Chief, Levant Branch, Security Cooperation Division, CCJ5, USCENTCOM, MacDill AFB, FL
15. Jul 2019 - Jun 2020 Chief of Safety, 36th Wing, Andersen AFB, Guam
16. Jun 2020 - Jun 2022 Commander, 36th Contingency Response Squadron, Andersen AFB, Guam
17. Jun 2022 - Jun 2023 Executive Officer to the Commander, Air Force District of Washington, JB Andrews, MD
18. Jul 2023 - May 2024 National Defense Fellow, Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Georgetown University, DC
19. Jun 2024 - Jun 2026 Director of Operations, Logistics, Plans & Analysis, USAF Expeditionary Center, JB MDL, NJ
20. Jun 2026 - Present Deputy Commander, 521st Air Mobility Operations Wing, Ramstein AB, Germany

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. Jun 2017 - Jun 2019 Chief, Political/Military Affairs, Lebanon, & Chief, Levant Branch, Security Cooperation Division (CCJ5), USCENTCOM, MacDill AFB, FL, as a Major & Lieutenant Colonel

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: 3341

Aircraft flown: C-17A, KC-135R/T, C-37A, T-1, T-37

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Medal

Air and Space Commendation Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant	May 28, 2003
First Lieutenant	May 28, 2005
Captain	May 28, 2007
Major	August 1, 2013
Lieutenant Colonel	March 1, 2018
Colonel	May 1, 2024

(CURRENT AS OF JUNE 2026)