



BIOGRAPHY

AIR FORCE OPERATIONAL TEST & EVALUATION CENTER

COLONEL JOHN W. CORNETT

Colonel John Cornett is the Director of Operations for the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. He works directly with the offices of the Secretary of Defense and Headquarters U.S. Air Force ensuring realistic, objective, and impartial operational testing is conducted on Air Force and joint-use systems. Colonel Cornett is responsible for the test and evaluation of more than 135 acquisition programs, overseeing the operations of more than 730 members at 12 locations and directly supervising 81 military, civilian, and contracting personnel.

Colonel Cornett received his commission following graduation from the University of Kentucky in 2000. He has operational experience in nuclear and conventional operations in the continental United States, at Andersen AFB, Guam as part of the Continuous Bomber Presence, Diego Garcia in Operation Enduring Freedom, and at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar supporting the fight against ISIS and other terrorist networks.



Colonel Cornett previously served as the Deputy Director, Inspections Directorate and Inspection Team Chief, The Inspection Agency, Department of the Air Force. He has also served in a variety of assignments as a B-52H instructor electronic warfare officer and weapons officer at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana and Minot AFB, North Dakota. He held a staff assignment at Joint Chief of Staff J-33 in the Pentagon as a Presidential Strike Advisor and Bomber Planner. Additionally, he served as the Director of Operations for the 69th Bomb Squadron, where he led a successful deployment to Al Udeid, which was followed by commanding the 5th Operations Support Squadron in Minot AFB, N.D.

EDUCATION:

- 2000 Bachelor of Science in Finance and Management, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky.
- 2007 U.S. Air Force Weapons School, B-52 Course, Nellis AFB, Nev.
- 2008 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2008 Master of Business Administration, Trident University, Cypress, Calif.
- 2011 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
- 2013 U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
- 2014 Master of Military Strategy, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. January 2001 – November 2002, student, undergraduate navigator training, Pensacola NAS, Fla.
2. November 2002 – September 2003, B-52 Initial Qualification Training student, Barksdale AFB, La.
3. September 2003 – October 2005, B-52 Electronic Warfare Officer and Short-Range Scheduler, 23rd Bomb Squadron, Minot AFB, N.D.
4. October 2005 – July 2007, Defensive System Project Manager and Assistant Training Flight Commander, 49th Test and Evaluation Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La.

5. January 2007 – July 2007, student, U.S. Air Force Weapons School, 340th Weapons Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La.
6. August 2007 – July 2009, B-52 Weapons Officer and Operations Group Training Flight Commander, 2nd Operations Support Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La.
7. July 2009 – June 2012, Assistant Director of Operations and Strategic Flight Phase Manager, 340th Weapons Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La.
8. June 2012 – June 2013, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
9. June 2013 – June 2014, student, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
10. June 2014 – June 2016, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Presidential Strike Advisor, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
11. June 2016 – May 2018, Director of Operations, 69th Bomb Squadron, Minot AFB, N.D.
12. May 2018 – May 2020, Commander, 5th Operations Support Squadron, Minot AFB, N.D.
13. May 2020 – June 2021, Fellow, Stimpson Center Fellowship, Washington, D.C.
14. July 2021 – June 2023, Deputy Director Inspections Directorate, Department of the Air Force Inspection Agency, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
15. June 2023 – present, Director, Operations Directorate, Headquarters Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Kirtland AFB, N.M.

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Master Navigator

Flight hours: More than 2,586, including more than 578 combat hours

Aircraft Flown: B-52H

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Legion of Merit Medal

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with oak leaf cluster

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Force Achievement Medal

Combat Readiness Medal

National Defense Service Medal

Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal

Afghanistan Campaign Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant	Jan. 5, 2001
First Lieutenant	Jan. 5, 2003
Captain	Jan. 5, 2005
Major	Oct. 1, 2010
Lieutenant Colonel	Feb. 1, 2016
Colonel	Oct. 1, 2022