



# BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



## LIEUTENANT GENERAL JAMES B. HECKER

Lt. Gen. James B. Hecker is Commander and President, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. He provides full-spectrum education, research and outreach at every level through professional military education, professional continuing education and academic degree granting. He leads the intellectual and leadership center of the U.S. Air Force, graduating more than 50,000 residents and 120,000 non-resident officers, enlisted and civilian personnel each year. Additionally, he is responsible for officer commissioning through Officer Training School and the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Lt. Gen. Hecker was commissioned in the Air Force in 1989 after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He was both a graduate and instructor at the U.S. Air Force Weapons Instructor Course. He has commanded at the squadron, group, wing and numbered Air Force levels. The general last served as Vice Director of Operations, Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia.



Lt. Gen. Hecker is a command pilot with more than 3,500 hours flying various aircraft including the F-15C Eagle, F-22 Raptor, MQ-1B Predator, HH-60 Pave Hawk, C-208 Caravan and the T-38C Talon. He has flown combat missions in operations Southern Watch, Allied Force, Resolute Support and Freedom's Sentinel.

### EDUCATION

- 1989 Bachelor of Science, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- 1995 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 1996 U.S. Air Force F-15C Weapons Instructor Course, Nellis AFB, Nev.
- 1999 Master of Science, Aeronautical Sciences, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Fla.
- 2002 Congressional Legislative Fellow, Washington, D.C.
- 2007 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2007 Master of Science, Strategic Studies, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2009 National Security Studies Program, Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
- 2010 Leadership Enhancement and Development Program, Goldsboro, N.C.
- 2014 Joint Maritime Component Commander Course, Newport, R.I.
- 2016 Joint Flag Officer Warfighting Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2017 Joint Force Air Component Commander Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2017 Combined and Joint Force Land Component Commander Course, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, Pa.
- 2019 Advanced Senior Leader Development Seminar, Warrenton, Va.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. October 1989–November 1990, Student, undergraduate pilot training, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas
2. January 1991–March 1991, Student, AT-38 lead-in fighter training, Holloman AFB, N.M.
3. March 1991–August 1991, Student, F-15 replacement training, Tyndall AFB, Fla.
4. August 1991–May 1992, F-15C Pilot 8th and 9th Tactical Fighter Squadrons, Holloman AFB, N.M.
5. June 1992–December 1995, Instructor Pilot, Flight Examiner and Chief, F-15C Standard Evaluation, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho
6. January 1996–June 1996, Student, F-15C Weapons Instructor Course, Nellis AFB, Nev.
7. July 1996–August 1998, Weapons Officer, 44th Fighter Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan
8. September 1998–July 2000, Instructor Pilot, F-15C Weapons Instructor Course, Nellis AFB, Nev.
9. August 2000–September 2001, Senate Liaison Officer, Office of Legislative Liaison, Secretary of the Air Force, Arlington, Va.
10. October 2001–October 2002, Capitol Hill Fellowship Program, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
11. November 2002–June 2003, Assistant Director of Operations, 94th Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.
12. July 2003–September 2004, Director of Operations, 27th Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.
13. October 2004–May 2006, Commander, 27th Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.
14. July 2006–May 2007, Student, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
15. July 2007–July 2009, Commander, 3rd Operations Group, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska
16. July 2009–June 2011, Director of Operations, Operations Directorate, U.S. Forces Japan, Yokota AB, Japan
17. June 2011–May 2013, Commander, 432nd Wing, 432nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Creech AFB, Nev.
18. May 2013–April 2015, Commander, 18th Wing, Kadena AB, Japan
19. April 2015–June 2015, Director of Plans, Programs, and Requirements, headquarters Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.
20. June 2015–March 2017, Commander, 19th Air Force, JB San Antonio-Randolph, Texas
21. April 2017–May 2018, Commander, 9th Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force-Afghanistan, and Commander, NATO Air Command-Afghanistan; Director, Air Forces Central Air Component Coordination Element for U.S. Forces-Afghanistan and NATO's Operation Resolute Support and Deputy Commander-Air for U.S. Forces Afghanistan
22. July 2018–October 2019, Vice Director of Operations, Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.
23. November 2019–present, Commander and President, Air University, Air Education and Training Command, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

## **SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS**

1. July 2009–June 2011, Director of Operations, Operations Directorate, U.S. Forces Japan, Yokota Air Base, Japan, as a colonel
2. April 2017–May 2018, Commander, 9th Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force-Afghanistan; Commander, NATO Air Command-Afghanistan; Director, U.S. Air Forces Central Command Air Component Coordination Element for U.S. Forces-Afghanistan and NATO's Operation Resolute Support; and Deputy Commander-Air for U.S. Forces Afghanistan, as a major general
3. July 2018–October 2019 Vice Director of Operations, Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va., as a major general

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Distinguished Service Medal  
Defense Superior Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters  
Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters  
Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters  
Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters and combat "C" device  
Aerial Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters  
Air Force Achievement Medal

## **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant May 31, 1989  
First Lieutenant May 31, 1991  
Captain May 31, 1993

Major July 1, 1999  
Lieutenant Colonel March 1, 2002  
Colonel Jan. 1, 2007  
Brigadier General Aug. 2, 2013  
Major General May 3, 2016  
Lieutenant General Nov 22, 2019

(Current as of November 2019)