



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL MELISSA L. DOMBROCK

Col Melissa L. Dombrock is the Deputy Commander, 89th Airlift Wing, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. She is responsible for worldwide special air mission airlift, logistics, aerial port and communications support for the President, Vice President, cabinet members, combatant commanders and other senior military and elected leaders as tasked by the White House, Air Force Chief of Staff and Air Mobility Command. The wing provides 24/7 alert airlift and operates an Executive Airlift Training Center and Government Network Operations Center.

Col Dombrock commissioned in 2005 from the U.S. Air Force Academy and holds a master's degree from the Naval Postgraduate School. A senior pilot with over 2,700 flight hours including 929 combat hours—she is qualified in the C-17, C-21, C-37, T-1, and T-6. She has deployed in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, and DEEP FREEZE. As Commander of the 76th Airlift Squadron at Ramstein AB, she also served as airboss during OPERATION ALLIES REFUGE leading a 300% surge in airlift and the evacuation of over 35 thousand Afghans.



Prior to her current assignment, Col Dombrock served as the Deputy Division Chief and Lead Planner for Future Operations at United States Africa Command in Stuttgart, Germany.

EDUCATION

- 2004 Exchange Programme diplome, Ecole de L'Air, (French Air Force Academy), Salon-de- Provence, France
- 2005 Double Bachelor of Science, Foreign Area Studies and Humanities (French Minor) United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado (DG)
- 2006 Master of Arts, International Relations and National Security, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California
- 2011 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama (DG)
- 2016 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
- 2017 Executive Master, Project Management and Leadership, Université Internationale de Rabat, Rabat-Sale, Morocco 2022 Leadership Coaching Certificate, Coaching Culture Facilitators' Course, immersive via Flatter, Inc.
- 2023 Senior Defense Fellowship Diploma, George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Garmisch, Germany
- 2024 Joint & Combined Warfighting School (JPME II), Stuttgart, Germany

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 2005 – September 2006, Student, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif.
2. September 2006 – May 2008, Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training (T-6B/T-1A) and C-17A Pilot Initial Qualification Training, Vance Air Force Base (AFB) and Altus AFB, Okla. (DG)
3. May 2008 – January 2011, C-17A Pilot, Mission Planning Officer, Standardization and Evaluation Liaison Officer, Executive Officer, 21st Airlift Squadron, Travis AFB, Calif. (PIQ DG) (Deployment 2010)
4. January 2011 – April 2012, C-17A Aircraft Commander, Chief Executive Officer, Flight Commander, 21st Airlift Squadron, Travis
5. April 2012 – July 2012, C-17A Instructor Aircraft Commander, Flight Commander, 21st Airlift Squadron, Travis AFB, Calif.
6. July 2012 – March 2014, C-17A Instructor Aircraft Commander and Operation DEEP FREEZE Instructor Aircraft Commander, Wing Chief of Protocol, Squadron Chief of Training, 62nd Airlift Wing and 8th Airlift Squadron, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.





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8. August 2014 – October 2017, Olmsted Scholar, Rabat, Morocco
9. October 2017 – May 2018, C-21A Pilot, Inspector General UEI Project Officer, 86th Airlift Wing, Ramstein Air Base, Germany
10. May 2018 – October 2018, Deputy Chief, Commander's Action Group, Headquarters United States Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa, Ramstein Air Base, Germany
11. October 2018 – June 2020, Chief, Commander's Action Group, Headquarters United States Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa, Ramstein Air Base, Germany
12. June 2020 – June 2022, Commander, 76 Airlift Squadron, Ramstein Air Base, Germany
13. July 2022 – August 2023, Senior Defense Fellow, George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany
14. August 2023 – November 2024, Future Operations Lead Planner and Branch Chief, West Africa Region and Counter-China problem set, Headquarters United States Africa Command, Stuttgart, Germany
15. November 2024 – Present, Deputy Division Chief and Lead Planner, Future Operations Division, Headquarters United States Africa Command, Stuttgart, Germany

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 2023 – November 2024, Future Operations Lead Planner and Branch Chief, West Africa Region and Counter-China problem set, as a lieutenant colonel and colonel
2. November 2024 – Present, Deputy Division Chief and Lead Planner, Future Operations Division, Headquarters United States Africa Command, Stuttgart, Germany, as a colonel

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Senior Pilot

Flight hours: More than 2700

Aircraft flown: C-17A, C-21A, C-37, T-1A, T6B

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal

Combat Readiness Medal

National Defense Service Medal

Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one service star Iraq Campaign Medal with one service star

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Armed Forces Service Medal with one service star

Humanitarian Service Medal with one service star

Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2004 Outstanding Cadet to the French Exchange

2005 Top Cadet in Foreign Area Studies; Top Cadet in Humanities, U.S. Air Force Academy

2008 AETC Commander's Trophy, Top Graduate, Undergraduate Pilot Training

2008 Distinguished Graduate, C-17 Pilot Initial Qualification Course

2011 Lt. Clebe McClary Award as peer-voted top graduate, Squadron Officer School

2011 Commandant's Leadership Award, Squadron Officer School

2012 Company Grade Officer of the Year

2022 DAF-level Goldfein-Wright Leadership Award (Team, Women's Initiatives Team)

2024 Commandant's Distinguished Writing Award for thesis "Time to Close the Emotional Intelligence Gap in Military Leadership", Joint & Combined Warfighting School





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PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Young Leader, The French-American Foundation
Member/Coach, International Coaching Federation
Member/Alumni, The Olmsted Foundation
Member, Women in Aviation International
Line of Effort lead, Women's Initiatives Team

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant, June 1, 2005
First Lieutenant, June 1, 2007
Captain, June 1, 2009
Major, August 1, 2015
Lieutenant Colonel, October 1, 2018
Colonel, April 1, 2024

(Current as of July 2025)

