



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL KARL W. “THUMPER” SEEKAMP

Col Seekamp is the Commander of the 316th Wing, Air Force District of Washington, and the Installation Commander of Joint Base Andrews-Naval Air Facility Washington, Maryland. The 316th Wing is the host wing for Joint Base Andrews-Naval Air Facility Washington, providing security, personnel, contracting, finance, medical and infrastructure support for six wings, three headquarters, and more than 85 tenant organizations, as well as 60,000 Airmen and families in the National Capital Region and around the world. The 316th Wing supports contingency operations in our nation’s capital with immediate response rotary-wing assets. The Wing also provides security for the world’s highest visibility flightline, supporting the President of the United States and other senior leaders.

Col Seekamp was commissioned as a distinguished graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Connecticut and is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School Class 131. He has commanded flight test units at the detachment, squadron and group level. Additionally, he commanded an expeditionary advisor unit leading Mi-17 combat operations across western Afghanistan. Col Seekamp has staff experience in Numbered Air Force level safety, Major Command (MAJCOM) standardization and evaluation, and Combatant Command strategic plans. Col. Seekamp is an experimental test pilot with qualifications in eleven different Army, Navy, and Air Force aircraft. He holds rotary-wing, fixed-wing, and powered lift pilot ratings. He has been a flight evaluator at the squadron, group, and MAJCOM level and has flown more than 100 Operation Enduring Freedom combat missions. Prior to his current position, Col Seekamp was the Deputy Commander of the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, leading more than 12,500 people to execute a 5-billion-dollar budget to discover, develop, and integrate warfighting technologies for the USAF and USSF. He oversaw a 127-million-dollar budget to upgrade state-of-the-art research facilities distributed globally across 21 sites and directed AFRL Headquarters' (HQ) daily operations, including managing the 219-million-dollar AFRL HQ budget.



EDUCATION

- 1998 Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering, with honors, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
- 2005 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2007 Experimental Test Pilot Course, U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, Patuxent River NAS, MD
- 2009 Masters of Business Administration, University of Maryland, University College, MD
- 2010 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL, by correspondence
- 2019 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, AL, by correspondence

ASSIGNMENTS

1. February 1999 - June 1999, Special Assistant to the Commander, Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
2. July 1999 - April 2000, Joint Undergraduate Pilot Training, Pensacola Naval Air Station, FL





BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

3. May 2000 - December 2000, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training - Helicopter, Fort Rucker, AL
4. January 2001 - May 2004, Instructor Pilot, Executive Officer, Chief of Sched, Life Supt Officer, 459th Airlift Squadron, Yokota, Japan
5. June 2004 - June 2006, Chief of Helicopter Standardization and Evaluation, 90th Operations Group, F.E. Warren AFB, WY
6. July 2006 - June 2007, Test Pilot Under Instruction, U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, Patuxent River NAS, MD
7. July 2007 - September 2009, CV-22 Test Pilot, Rotary-wing Flight Commander, 413th Flight Test Sq, Hurlburt Field, FL
8. October 2009 - April 2010, Missile Defense Strategic Planner, U.S. Central Command, MacDill AFB, FL
9. May 2010 - May 2011, Deputy Chief of Flight Safety, Air Armament Center, Eglin AFB, FL
10. June 2011 - June 2012, Commander, Det 1, 838th Air Expeditionary Advisor Group, Herat AB, AFG.
11. July 2012 - June 2014, Commander, Det 1, 413th Flight Test Squadron (CSAR CTF), Nellis AFB, NV
12. July 2014 - June 2016, Commander, Flight Test Squadron, Data Masked
13. July 2016 - July 2018, Deputy Commander, 96th Operations Group, Eglin AFB, FL
14. August 2018 - May 2019, Chief of Helicopter Operations and Training, A3V, Air Force Materiel Command, Eglin AFB, FL
15. June 2019 - August 2021, Chief, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Hurlburt Field, FL
16. September 2021 - August 2022, Director of Safety, Air Force Test Center, Edwards AFB, CA
17. September 2022 - June 2024, Commander, 704th Test Group, Holloman, NM
18. July 2024 – June 2026, Deputy Commander, Air Force Research Laboratory, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH
19. July 2026 – present, Commander, 316th Wing, JB Andrews-NAFW, MD

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: Over 3,500 (245 Combat)

Aircraft flown: UH-1 N, CV-22B, Mi-17, TH-6, C-12C/D, BE-1900, UH-60L/M, HH-60G/U/W and over 20 other types

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster

Bronze Star

Meritorious Service Medal with seven oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster

Meritorious Unit Award with oak leaf cluster

Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two bronze stars

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Armed Forces Service Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal

Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal with "N" Device

Non-Article 5 NATO Medal (ISAF)

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant January 27, 1999

First Lieutenant January 27, 2001

Captain January 27, 2003

Major September 1, 2008

Lieutenant Colonel March 1, 2014

Colonel October 1, 2021

(Current as of July 2026)

