



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL LARRY E. GARDNER

Colonel Larry E. Gardner is the Commander of the 141st Air Refueling Wing, Washington Air National Guard located at Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington. The 141st Air Refueling Wing has both a Federal and State mission and is Classically Associated with the 92d Air Refueling Wing sharing 63 KC-135 aircraft valued at \$3.5 billion. When gained by Air Mobility Command, the federal mission is to train, equip, and deploy quality mobility forces to forward operating locations in support of specific contingency plans and other short-notice taskings. Under order of the Governor of the State of Washington, the wing provides protection of life and property while preserving peace, order, and public safety.

Colonel Gardner began his military career in November 1992 as a Civil Engineering Apprentice with the Montana Air National Guard while attending Carroll College on a football scholarship. He was selected as the Deputy Base Civil Engineer in 1997 and received his federal commissioning on 2 July 1998. In 2000, he was chosen from a competitive field as an F-16 pilot candidate and attended the prestigious Euro-Nato Joint Jet Pilot Training undergraduate program. In 2008, Colonel Gardner entered the Active Guard Reserve program during his conversion to the F-15C and flew the Eagle until the 120th Fighter Wing converted its mission to the C-130H in 2013. Colonel Gardner's last operational combat tour was in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE in 2017 as a C-130H Aircraft Commander and 386 Expeditionary Airlift Squadron Director of Operations.



Prior to assuming his current position, Colonel Gardner served as the 120th Maintenance Group Commander, Montana Air National Guard. Additionally, Colonel Gardner served as an Air Interdiction Federal Agent from 2007-2013 with the Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection as part of the Montana Air Branch.

EDUCATION

- 1994 Undergraduate 3-2 Engineering/Mathematics Program, Carroll College, Helena, Mont.
- 1996 Bachelor of Science, Civil Engineering, Montana State University, Bozeman, Mont.
- 2000 Master of Business, Management, Troy State University
- 2004 Squadron Officer's School (Non-Residence)
- 2009 Air Command and Staff College (Non-Residence)
- 2013 Air War College (Non-Residence)
- 2016 Commander's Development Course/Safety & Accident Investigation Board President Course, Andrews AFB, Md.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. November 1992–August 1997, Civil Engineering Apprentice, 120th Civil Engineer Squadron, Great Falls, Montana Air National Guard Base, Mont.
2. August 1997–March 2000, Deputy Base Civil Engineer, 120th Civil Engineer Squadron, Great Falls, Montana ANG Base, Mont.

ASSIGNMENTS (Cont.)

3. March 2000–February 2001, Environmental Engineer, 120th Civil Engineer Squadron, Great Falls, Montana ANG Base, Mont.
4. February 2001–May 2002, Student, Euro-Nato Joint Jet Pilot Training, Sheppard AFB, Texas
5. May 2002–April 2003, Student, Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals-F-16 Hybrid Course, Tucson ANG Base, Ariz.
6. November 2003–November 2004, Standardizations/Evaluations Liaison Officer, 120th Operations Group, Great Falls, Montana ANG Base, Mont.
7. November 2004–November 2005, Plans and Mobility Officer, 186th Fighter Squadron, Great Falls, Montana ANG Base, Mont.
8. 2005–January 2006, Military Deception Officer, 186th Fighter Squadron, Great Falls, Montana ANG Base, Mont.
9. January 2006–June 2008, Quality Assurance Officer, 120th Maintenance Squadron, Great Falls, Montana ANG Base, Mont.
10. April 2006–June 2008, Air Sovereignty Alert Scheduler, 120th Det-1, March Air Reserve Base, Calif.
11. June 2008–December 2010, "A" Flight Commander, 186th Fighter Squadron, Great Falls, Montana ANG Base, Mont.
12. August 2009–December 2009, F-15 Fighter Transition Course, Tyndall AFB, Fla.
13. December 2010–October 2013, Assistant Director of Operations, 186th Fighter Squadron, Great Falls, Montana ANG Base, Mont.
(January 2013–February 2013, 186th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron Director of Operations, Elmendorf AFB, Alas.)
14. February 2013–March 2013, Operations Group Commander, 120th Operations Group, Great Falls, Montana ANG Base, Mont.
15. October 2013–April 2014, Aircraft Commander's Initial Qualification Course, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
16. September 2014–June 2017, 120th Operations Support Squadron Commander, Great Falls, Montana ANG Base, Mont.
(October 2016–January 2017, Director of Operations, 386th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, Southwest Asia)
17. June 2017–April 2019, Commander, 120th Maintenance Group, Great Falls, Montana ANG Base, Mont.
18. April 2019 – Present, Commander, 141st Air Refueling Wing, Fairchild AFB, Wash.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight Hours: Over 2,000

Aircraft Flown: T-37B, T-38A, AT-38B, F-16A/C (Block 15/30/42), F-15C, C-130H1/2/3, KC-135/R

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Korean Defense Service Medal

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

National Guard Association of the United States

National Order of Daedalians–Life Member, Number 7509

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant July 2, 1998

First Lieutenant July 2, 2000

Captain November 2, 2002

Major November 4, 2006

Lieutenant Colonel February 3, 2011

Colonel June 28, 2018

(Current as of August 2020)