



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH P. EKMAN

Maj. Gen. Kenneth P. Ekman is the Deputy Commander, Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve, U.S. Central Command. He oversees joint and coalition operations, intelligence and plans in the fight against the Islamic State group of Iraq and Syria. Additionally, he is the Commander, 9th Air Expeditionary Task Force-Levant, U.S. Air Forces Central Command. He is responsible for ensuring the success of U.S. Air Force missions executed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. Maj. Gen. Ekman commands approximately 5,000 Airmen assigned to the 332nd and 386th Air Expeditionary Wings and the 321st Air Expeditionary Group.

Maj. Gen. Ekman received his commission in 1991 after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He has primarily flown sailplanes, the F-16 Fighting Falcon, and the F-22 Raptor, and has commanded at the squadron and wing levels. His staff assignments include service at U.S. Air Forces Central Command, Office of the Secretary of Defense, North American Aerospace Defense and U.S. Northern Commands, and Office of the Defense Representative Pakistan. Prior to his current position, the general was the Vice Commander, First Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Northern, Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida.



Maj. Gen. Ekman is a command pilot with more than 3,100 flying hours, including 605 combat hours in operations Southern Watch, Northern Watch, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

EDUCATION

1991 Bachelor of Science Distinguished Graduate, Aeronautical Engineering, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.

1994 Master of Science with Distinction, Mechanical Engineering, California State University, Fresno

1998 Squadron Officer School Distinguished Graduate, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

2004 Air Command and Staff College Distinguished Graduate, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2005 School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2007 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence

2012 Joint & Combined Warfighting School, Norfolk, Va.

2012 Center for Creative Leadership, Goldsboro, N.C.
2013 Federal Executive Fellowship, Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.
2020 Combined Forces Air Component Commander's Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
2020 Combined/Joint Forces Special Operations Component Commander's Course, MacDill AFB, Fla.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 1991-September 1992, Student, Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas
2. October 1992-December 1994, Curriculum Engineer and Sailplane Instructor, U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School, Edwards AFB, Calif.
3. January 1995-February 1996, Student, F-16 Fighting Falcon Replacement Training Unit, Luke AFB, Ariz.
4. March 1996-June 1998, Electronic Combat Pilot, Chief of Scheduling and Instructor Pilot, 522nd Fighter Squadron, Cannon AFB, N.M.
5. July 1998-June 2000, Chief of Scheduling, Flight Commander, Assistant Operations Officer, 36th Fighter Squadron, Osan Air Base, South Korea
6. July 2000-December, Student, F-16 Weapons Instructor Course, U.S. Air Force Weapons School, Nellis AFB, Nev.
7. January 2001-June 2003, Chief, 14th Fighter Squadron and 35th Operations Support Squadron Weapons and Tactics, Misawa AB, Japan
8. July 2003-June 2004, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
9. July 2004-June 2005, Student, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
10. July 2005-July 2006, Chief of Campaign Strategy, 609th Combat Plans Squadron, Ninth Air Force/U.S. Central Air Forces, Shaw AFB, S.C.
11. August 2006-August 2007, Director of Operations, F-16 Instructor Pilot, 55th Fighter Squadron, Shaw AFB, S.C.
12. September 2007-May 2008, Chief of Safety, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Balad AB, Iraq
13. July 2008 -October 2009, Commander, 79th Fighter Squadron, Shaw AFB, S.C.
14. October 2009-February 2010, Commander, 79th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, Bagram AB, Afghanistan
15. February 2010-June 2010, Deputy Commander, 20th Mission Support Group, Shaw AFB, S.C.
16. July 2010-May 2012, Tactical Air Analyst, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.
17. June 2012-July 2013, Vice Commander, 49th Wing, Holloman AFB, N.M.
18. July 2013-April 2014, Federal Executive Fellow, Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.
19. May 2014-May 2015, Commander, 8th Fighter Wing, Kunsan AB, South Korea
20. May 2015-July 2016, Vice Director of Operations; Deputy Chief of Staff, North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command, Peterson AFB, Colo.
21. August 2016-December 2017, Vice Chief then Chief, Office of the Defense Representative-Pakistan, U.S. Embassy, Islamabad, Pakistan
22. January 2018-April 2020, Vice Commander, First Air Force & Air Forces Northern Command, Tyndall AFB, Fla.
23. April 2020-present, Deputy Commander for Operations, Combined Joint Task Force—Operation Inherent Resolve; Commander, 9th Air Expeditionary Task Force—Levant, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. July 2010-May 2012, Tactical Air Analyst, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va., as a colonel
2. May 2015-July 2016, Vice Director of Operations; Deputy Chief of Staff, North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command, Peterson AFB, Colo., as a colonel
3. August 2016-December 2017, Chief, Office of the Defense Representative-Pakistan, U.S. Embassy, Islamabad, Pakistan, as a brigadier general
4. April 2020-present, Deputy Commander for Operations, Combined Joint Task Force—Operation Inherent Resolve, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, as a brigadier general and major general

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: command pilot

Flight hours: more than 3,100, including 605 combat hours

Primary aircraft flown: F-16, F-22, CAP C-182/C-206, T-38, T-37, sailplanes

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Superior Service Medal

Legion of Merit

Distinguished Flying Cross

Bronze Star Medal

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal

Air Medal

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Combat Action Medal

Afghanistan Campaign Medal

Iraq Campaign Medal

Samil Medal (South Korea)

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

1991 Outstanding Cadet in Soaring, U.S. Air Force Academy

1992 Air Training Command Commander's Trophy, Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training

1995 Distinguished Graduate, Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals

1996 Top Graduate, F-16 FTU Class 95-HBLG, Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

2000 Distinguished Graduate and Flying Award, F-16 Weapons Instructor Course 00B, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 29, 1991

First Lieutenant May 29, 1993

Captain May 29, 1995

Major Feb. 1, 2002

Lieutenant Colonel March 1, 2006

Colonel Aug. 1, 2011

Brigadier General Aug. 22, 2016

Major General May 22, 2020

(Current as of June 2020)