



Biography

437th Airlift Wing (AMC)

Office of Public Affairs Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. 29404 (843) 963-5608
e-mail: 437aw.pa@charleston.af.mil

COLONEL SUSAN Y. DESJARDINS



Colonel Susan Y. Desjardins is Commander, 437th Airlift Wing (AW), Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. The wing flies C-17 aircraft and works around the clock to provide airlift support and aeromedical evacuation. The 437th AW participates in military operations involving the airland and airdrop of troops, equipment and supplies; responds to Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed special operations missions, and supports U.S. sponsored relief efforts worldwide.

Colonel Desjardins received her commission from the U.S. Air Force Academy in May 1980. She has commanded at the squadron and group level and has served as the Deputy Military Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force and in a variety of staff positions at the Joint Staff, Headquarters United States Air Force and major command levels. Before being assigned to Charleston AFB in 2004, she was the Executive Officer to the Commander, United States Transportation Command and to the Commander, Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill. The colonel is a command pilot with more than 3,500 flying hours in the KC-10, C-17, C-5, KC-135R, KC-135A, and T-37.

EDUCATION:

- 1980 Bachelor of Science degree in International Affairs/Political Science, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- 1983 Squadron Officer School (correspondence)
- 1991 Master of Arts in Industrial Psychology and Human Relations, Louisiana Tech University, La.
- 1993 Naval Command and Staff College, Newport, R.I.; Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies, Naval War College, Newport, R.I.
- 1997 Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 2004 The General Manager Program, Harvard Business School, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. July 1980 – August 1981, student, undergraduate pilot training, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas
2. August 1981 – December 1981, KC-135A pilot training, Castle Air Force Base, Calif.
3. December 1981 – October 1985, KC-135A copilot, standardization-evaluation copilot, and later KC-135A aircraft commander, 911th Air Refueling Squadron, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.
4. October 1985 – September 1988, KC-10 copilot and later KC-10 aircraft commander, 344th Air Refueling Squadron, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.
5. September 1988 – July 1991, KC-10 instructor and evaluator pilot, 2nd Air Refueling Squadron, later wing executive officer, 2nd Bombardment Wing, Barksdale Air Force Base, La.
6. July 1991 – August 1992, KC-10 program element monitor, Directorate for Requirements and Test, Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.
7. August 1992 – July 1993, student, Naval Command and Staff College, Newport, R.I.

8. July 1993 – March 1994, tanker requirements staff officer, Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Operations, Headquarters United States Air Force, Washington, D.C.
9. March 1994 – March 1995, member, Air Force Issues Team, Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Operations, Headquarters United States Air Force, Washington, D.C.
10. March 1995 – July 1996, Deputy Military Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force, Headquarters United States Air Force, Washington, D.C.
11. July 1996 – July 1997, student, Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
12. July 1997 – August 1999, commander, 912th Air Refueling Squadron, Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D.
13. August 1999 – March 2002, strategic planner and later Chief, Nuclear Treaties Branch, Directorate for Strategic Plans and Policy (J-5) Joint Staff, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
14. March 2002 – August 2003, Commander, 60th Operations Group, Travis Air Force Base, Calif.
15. August 2003 - October 2004, Executive Officer to the Commander, U.S. Transportation Commander and to the Commander, Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.
16. October 2004 – present, Commander, 437th Airlift Wing, Charleston, S.C.

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Command Pilot
 Flight Hours: More than 3,500
 Aircraft: KC-10, C-17, C-5, KC-135R, KC-135A and T-37

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Defense Superior Service Medal
 Legion of Merit
 Defense Meritorious Service Medal
 Meritorious Service Medal with three oak-leaf clusters
 Aerial Achievement Medal
 Joint Commendation Medal
 Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak-leaf cluster
 Air Force Achievement Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant	May 28, 1980
First Lieutenant	May 28, 1982
Captain	May 28, 1984
Major	June 1, 1992
Lieutenant Colonel	December 1, 1996
Colonel	April 1, 2000

(Current as of October 2004)