



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL ALEX C. VAN ZANT

Colonel Alex C. Van Zant is the Deputy Wing Commander, 111th Attack Wing, Pennsylvania Air National Guard, located at Biddle Air National Guard Base, Horsham, Pennsylvania. As Deputy Wing Commander, Col Van Zant supports the Wing Commander in leading more than 900 Airmen across multiple mission sets, including Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA), Defensive Cyber Operations, medical readiness, and civil engineering support through RED HORSE operations. He assists in executing the Wing's global mission while ensuring installation resilience and strategic readiness for both state and federal taskings.

Col Van Zant commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at Penn State University and entered active duty in 2000. He attended Joint Undergraduate Navigator Training and initially served as an AC-130 navigator in Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC). In 2006, he transferred to the Air National Guard, completed Undergraduate Pilot Training, and became qualified in the legacy and newer C-130 models. In 2010, he transitioned to traditional Guardsman status while serving as a police officer with the Manheim Township Police Department.



In 2013, Col Van Zant returned to full-time military service, joining the 111th Operations Group and becoming a founding member of the Wing's MQ-9A mission. Over the next decade, he held a series of progressive leadership roles, including Chief of Training, instructor, evaluator, and Commander of both the 111th Security Forces Squadron and the 103d Attack Squadron. In 2022, he assumed command of the 111th Operations Group, leading more than 300 Airmen across two distinct mission areas: RPA operations and cyber defense. A career aviator, Col Van Zant has over 3,400 flight hours as a navigator and pilot in the T-43, T-6, TC-12, AC-130U, C-130E, EC-130J, and MQ-9A. He is a veteran of multiple combat operations, including Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, and UNIFIED PROTECTOR, logging more than 1,000 hours in combat and combat support.

EDUCATION

- 1999 Bachelor of Science in Marketing, minor in Military Studies, The Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pa.
- 2004 Squadron Officer School (by correspondence), Maxwell AFB, Al.
- 2006 Master of Business Administration, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fl.
- 2014 Air Command and Staff College (by correspondence), Maxwell AFB, Al.
- 2019 Safety and Accident Investigation Board President Course, by correspondence
- 2019 Air National Guard Squadron Commander's Course, Joint Base Andrews, Md.
- 2022 Air War College (by correspondence), Maxwell AFB, Al.
- 2024 Air National Guard Commanders' Leadership Course, Joint Base Andrews, Md.

ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. February 2000–April 2000, Casual Officer Program, 71st Rescue Squadron, Moody AFB, Ga.
- 2. April 2000–March 2001, Student Pilot, 12th Flying Training Wing, Randolph AFB, Tx.
- 3. April 2001–April 2002, AC-130U Navigator Initial Qualification Trainee, 19th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fl.





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4. April 2002–November 2005, Current Operations Officer, 4th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fl.
5. November 2005–May 2006, Chief of Life Support, 4th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fl.
6. May 2006–December 2006, Pilot Trainee, 106th Rescue Wing, Francis S. Gabreski Airfield, Westhampton Beach, Ny.
7. December 2006–February 2008, Joint Undergraduate Pilot Training, Laughlin AFB and NAS Corpus Christi, Tx.
8. March 2008–April 2009, C-130 Initial Qualification Training, 314th Airlift Wing, Little Rock AFB, Ar.
9. April 2009–August 2013, EC-130J Mission Pilot, 193d Special Operations Squadron, Harrisburg International Airport, Middletown, Pa.
10. August 2013–February 2018, Chief of Training, 111th Operations Support Squadron, Biddle Air Guard Base, Horsham, Pa.
11. February 2018–January 2019, Detachment Director of Operations (Title 10), 103d Attack Squadron, Biddle Air Guard Base, Horsham, Pa.
12. January 2019–October 2021, Director of Operations, 103d Attack Squadron, Biddle Air Guard Base, Horsham, Pa.
13. October 2021–October 2022, Commander, 111th Security Forces Squadron, Biddle Air Guard Base, Horsham, Pa.
14. October 2022–October 2023, Commander, 103d Attack Squadron, Biddle Air Guard Base, Horsham Pa.
15. October 2023–May 2025, Commander, 111th Operations Group, Biddle Air Guard Base, Horsham Pa.
16. May 2025–Present, Deputy Wing Commander, 111th Attack Wing, Biddle Air Guard Base, Horsham Pa.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: 1850

Aircraft flown: T-6, TC-12, C-130E, EC-130J, and MQ-9A

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal with ten oak leaf clusters

Air and Space Commendation Medal

Gallant Unit Citation

Meritorious Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with valor device and six oak leaf clusters

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

Remote Combat Effects Campaign Medal

Air and Space Campaign Medal

Armed Forces Reserve Medal with one hourglass device

Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant January 15, 2000

First Lieutenant January 15, 2002

Captain January 15, 2004

Major November 22, 2009

Lieutenant Colonel June 10, 2016

Colonel September 24, 2024

(Current as of June 2025)

