

403D WING



CHANGE OF COMMAND

2 November 2023

*Roberts Consolidated
Maintenance Auditorium
Keesler Air Force Base, MS*

Sequence of Events

Arrival of the Official Party

Musical Honors

National Anthem

Invocation

Introductions

Remarks by Brigadier General Coburn

Presentation of Legion of Merit

Remarks by Colonel Rubio

Change of Command

Remarks by Colonel Benson

Air Force Song

Departure of the Official Party

Reception

403d Wing Mission

*Provide mission-ready Airmen to
execute diverse C-130J and
combat support operations*

403d Wing Vision

*Wing of Choice —
Agile, Innovative, Disciplined*

403d Wing Priorities

Prepare and equip mission-ready Airmen

Develop and retain resilient Airmen

*Create a compliant, disciplined
and lean organization*





The Change of Command

The ceremony you are about to witness is deeply rooted in military tradition and dates back to the time of Frederick the Great of Prussia. During that period, military organizations developed flags bearing specialized colors and designs unique to them. When soldiers followed their leaders into battle, they kept sight of these flags. If a banner still waved after the conflict, it was a sign that their side was victorious on the battlefield.

Because of its symbolic importance, the flag was incorporated into the ancient change of command ceremony. The organizational banner was exchanged in public for all to witness the naming of the new sovereign leader of any army. The modern ceremony is simple and direct, yet continues to announce to all the authority of the incoming commander in the finest of military traditions.

Brig Gen Melissa A. Coburn

Presiding Officer



Brig. Gen. Melissa A. Coburn is the Commander, 22nd Air Force, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Georgia. Twenty-Second Air Force has command supervision of the Air Force Reserve's tactical air mobility operations and other vital mission sets to include distinguished visitor airlift, undergraduate pilot training, flight test operations and a highly mobile civil engineering response force. With more than 12,000 Reserve Airmen and 64 unit-equipped aircraft, 22nd Air Force contributes daily to the Air Force's worldwide operational mission. Reserve aircrews within 22nd Air Force accomplish a variety of C-130 Hercules missions, to include aerial spray, fire suppression, weather reconnaissance, tactical airlift and airdrop and aeromedical evacuation.

Brig. Gen. Coburn was commissioned through the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1992, and served 11 years on active duty, including a remote assignment to South Korea. While on active duty, she flew as a lead airdrop instructor in the C-141B Starlifter, and as an evaluator pilot in the C-12J Huron. She transitioned to the Air Force Reserve in February 2003. Brig. Gen. Coburn flew as a C-17 Globemaster III airdrop evaluator pilot and was the first Reservist to graduate from the C-17 Weapons Instructor Course in 2007. Prior to her current position, Brig. Gen. Coburn was the Deputy Director for Strategy, Policy and Plans, North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Colonel Stuart M. Rubio

Outgoing Commander



Col. Stuart M. Rubio is relinquishing command of the 403rd Wing, Air Force Reserve Command, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. As 403rd Wing Commander, he led over 1,500 Reserve and civilian professionals in an Air Force Reserve C-130J unit equipped wing. The wing's mission is to train, equip and employ airlift forces in support of the nation's interests. This includes the only weather reconnaissance mission in the DoD as well as tactical airlift and airdrop, aeromedical evacuation and agile combat support.

Colonel Rubio commissioned in May 1998 upon graduation from the United States Air Force Academy. He is a command pilot with more than 4,000 hours in the T-1, C-130E/H3/J and W-C130J supporting tactical airlift, airdrop, aeromedical evacuation and weather reconnaissance missions. After serving 20 years in the active Air Force, he retired in 2018 and transitioned to the Air Force Reserve under the Regular Air Force to Air Force Reserve Program. Throughout his career, he has held leadership positions to include C-130J Formal Training Unit instructor/evaluator pilot, executive officer at the squadron, group and wing levels, flying squadron director of operations, wing chief of safety, and squadron and group command. He deployed in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom and flew combat support missions in the Horn of Africa. He will now serve as the Director of Operations, Plans, and Requirements, 22nd Air Force, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Georgia.

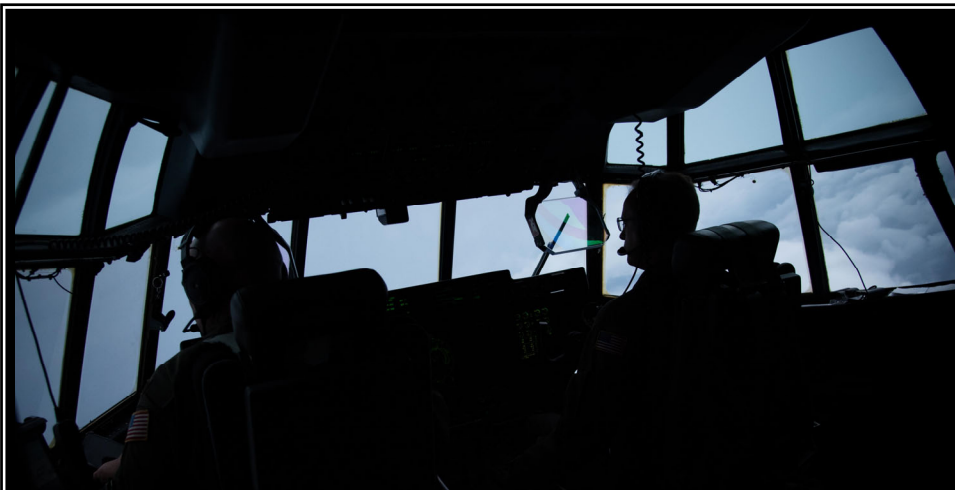
Colonel John F. Benson

Incoming Commander



Col. John F. Benson is assuming command of the 403rd Wing, Air Force Reserve Command, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. He served as commander, 954th Reserve Support Squadron, Joint Transportation Reserve Unit, United States Transportation Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. As commander, he is responsible for providing trained reserve component personnel to support synchronization of the air, land and sea transportation missions supporting warfighting capability for combatant commanders. These reserve forces coordinate the distribution of supplies and equipment for wartime, peacetime and humanitarian operations for the Department of Defense, including joint training, exercises and war planning.

Colonel Benson was commissioned in 2000 upon graduation from the United States Air Force Academy. He is a command pilot with more than 4,400 hours in tanker airlift aircraft, including more than 1,450 combat hours. He flew missions in support of Operations Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. He served more than 12 years on active duty before joining the Air Force Reserve in 2012. Colonel Benson was selected for numerous leadership opportunities including the prestigious Phoenix Reach major weapon system cross flow program. He has served staff assignments at the major command and combatant command levels and commanded a mobilized KC-10 squadron. In his civilian capacity, Colonel Benson is a commercial airline captain.



AIR FORCE SONG

*Off we go into the wild blue yonder,
Climbing high into the sun
Here they come zooming to meet our thunder
At 'em now, Give 'em the gun!
Down we dive, spouting our flame from under
Off with one helluva roar!
We live in fame or go down in flame
Hey! Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!*

