



# BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

## COLONEL JOHN R. O'CONNOR

**Colonel John R. O'Connor** is the Commander, 174th Attack Wing, Hancock Field, Syracuse, NY. He is responsible for the command and control of MQ-9 combat operations supporting combatant commanders in multiple theaters of operation. Additionally, the Wing performs MQ-9 Test, Formal Training Unit, Maintenance Field Training Detachment, Maintenance, Mission Support and Medical Group functions, as well as hosting the 152nd Air Operations Group providing multi-domain command and control capability to USAFE-AFAFRICA. The 174th Attack Wing regularly answers deployment requirements around the globe and provides immediate domestic response capability as directed by the Governor of New York.



Colonel O'Connor graduated from the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh in 1988. He was commissioned through the United States Air Force Officer Training School at Lackland AFB, Texas in 1989 and earned his Master of Science Degree in Human Resource Management from Troy University, Alabama in 1991. Colonel O'Connor served on active duty for nine years holding leadership positions in supply operations, logistics management and as an Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies in the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps. He joined the New York Air National Guard in 1998 and held squadron and group command positions in both the Maintenance and Mission Support Groups. Additionally, the Colonel served as the Principal Deputy Director of Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection at the National Guard Bureau Air National Guard Readiness Center. Colonel O'Connor deployed in support of combat operations in Operation DESERT STORM/SOUTHERN WATCH and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Prior to his current assignment, Col O'Connor served as the Vice Commander, 107th Attack Wing, Niagara Falls, NY.

### EDUCATION

1988 Bachelor of Science in Business/Marketing, State University of New York, Plattsburgh, N.Y.  
1989 Air Force Officer Training School (OTS), Medina Annex, Lackland AFB, Texas  
1991 Master of Science in Human Resource Management (MSHRM), Troy University, Troy, Ala.  
1994 Squadron Officer School, in residence, Distinguished Graduate, Maxwell AFB, Ala.  
2003 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence  
2006 Reserve Component National Security Course, National Defense University, Washington D.C.  
2007 Joint Interagency Security Course, National Defense University, Washington D.C.  
2007 Air War College, Excellent Graduate, by correspondence  
2010 Air Force Security Assistance Management Training Officer Course, DISAM, WPAFB, Ohio  
2010 Advanced Joint Professional Military Education (AJPME II), Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.  
2013 Air Force Security Cooperation Management Training Advanced Officer Course, DISAM, WPAFB, Ohio  
2015 Air National Guard Commander Development Course, ANGRC, Andrews AFB, Md.  
2015 Joint Task Force Commander Training Course, NORAD/US NORTHCOM, Colorado Springs, Colo.  
2017 Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Level IV Antiterrorism Executive Seminar, Mclean, Va.  
2017 National Security Fellow, National Security Management Course, Syracuse University Maxwell School, N.Y.

2021 National and International Security Leadership Seminar, Alan L. Freed Associates, Alexandria, Va.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

September 1989 - March 1990, Supply Operations Officer, 363rd Supply Squadron, Shaw AFB, S.C.  
March 1990 - March 1991, OIC, Operations Support Section, 363rd Supply Squadron, Shaw AFB, S.C.  
March 1991 - March 1992, Chief, Materiel Storage and Distribution Flight, 363rd Supply Squadron, Shaw AFB, S.C.  
March 1992 - October 1992, Fuels Management Officer, 363rd Supply Squadron, Shaw AFB, S.C.  
October 1992 - October 1994, Fuels Management Officer, 380th Supply Squadron, Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y.  
(December 1993 - March 1994, Fuels Management Flight Chief, 4404th Composite Wing, Provisional, Operation DESERT STORM/SOUTHERN WATCH, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia)  
October 1994 - June 1995, Chief, Supply Closure Flight, 380th Supply Squadron, Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y.  
June 1995 - March 1998, Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies, AFROTC Detachment 538, Rochester, N.Y.  
March 1998 - December 1999, Supply Management and Systems Flight Commander, 174th Fighter Wing, Syracuse, N.Y.  
January 2000 - April 2001, Chief of Supply, 174th Fighter Wing, Syracuse, N.Y.  
May 2001 - January 2005, Commander, Maintenance Squadron, 174th Fighter Wing, Syracuse, N.Y. (October 2003 – November 2003, Senior Aircraft Maintenance Officer, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Group, Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar)  
January 2005 - November 2008, Commander, Logistics Readiness Squadron, 174th Fighter Wing, Syracuse, N.Y.  
November 2008 - November 2011, Commander, Maintenance Squadron, 174th Fighter Wing, Syracuse, N.Y.  
November 2011 - June 2014, Maintenance Group Deputy Commander, 174th Attack Wing, Syracuse, N.Y.  
July 2014 - April 2019, Commander, Mission Support Group, 174th Attack Wing, Syracuse, N.Y.  
April 2019 - June 2022, Principal Deputy Director of Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection, NGB/A4, National Guard Bureau, Joint Base Andrews, Md.  
June 2022 – June 2023, Vice Commander, 107th Attack Wing, Niagara Falls, N.Y.  
June 2023 – Present, Commander, 174th Attack Wing, Syracuse, N.Y.

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Legion of Merit  
Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters  
Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters  
Air Force Achievement Medal  
Meritorious Unit Award  
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters  
National Defense Service Medal with bronze star  
Southwest Asia Service Medal with bronze star  
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal  
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal  
Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with eight oak leaf clusters  
Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 3 'M' devices  
Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with bronze star

## **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant September 28, 1989  
First Lieutenant September 28, 1991  
Captain September 28, 1993  
Major November 10, 1999  
Lieutenant Colonel May 2, 2004  
Colonel December 11, 2014

(Current as of November 2023)