



BIOGRAPHY

MONTANA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

COLONEL KENDALL S. SWITZER

Colonel Kendall S. Switzer is the Vice Chief of the Joint Staff, Montana National Guard and the Director of Staff (Air), Montana Air National Guard, Helena, Montana. As Vice Chief of the Joint Staff, he assists the Adjutant General and Chief of the Joint Staff with all phases of managing National Guard military functions and joint military program operations throughout the State. As Director of Staff (Air), he oversees the development, execution and evaluation of programs and policies pertaining to the command, control, operation and management of the State Air National Guard.

Colonel Switzer is from Bozeman, Montana, graduating from Bozeman Senior High School in 1979. He then graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1983 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. He completed Naval Flight Training and received his wings in February 1986. Colonel Switzer flew the F/A-18 for the Marine Corps and is a graduate of the Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN) and Strike Leader Attack Training Syllabus (SLATS). Ken's last tour with the Marine Corps was as a solo pilot with the United States Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron (Blue Angels). Ken transferred to Montana Air National Guard flying the F-16 as a Guardsman in 1995 and joined the full time cadre in March 2004. He has served as a Flight Commander, Group Commander and Joint Staff Director (J6). Colonel Switzer is a command pilot with more than 4100 hours in the F/A-18 and F-16.



EDUCATION:

- 1983 Bachelor of Science Degree, Engineering, United States Naval Academy
- 1984 United States Marine Corps Officer Training, The Basic School (TBS), Quantico, Virginia
- 1986 Naval Flight Training, NAS Meridian, Mississippi
- 1989 Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN), NAS Miramar, California
- 1989 Strike Leader Attack Training Syllabus (SLATS), NAS Fallon, Nevada
- 1990 USMC Amphibious Warfare School (non-residence)
- 1998 Air Command and Staff College (non-residence)
- 2001 Air War College (non-residence)
- 2004 Aircraft Maintenance Officer Course, Sheppard AFB, Texas
- 2007 Communication Officer Training Course, Keesler AFB, Mississippi
- 2008 US Army Signal Officer (Branch Qualification) Training, Fort Gordon, GA
- 2008 Advanced Joint Professional Military Education (AJPME), JFSC, Norfolk, VA
- 2008 Joint Force Headquarters/Joint Task Force Staff Training Course (JSTC), Fort Harrison, MT
- 2009 Joint Task Force Commander Training (JCTC), NORAD/USNORTHCOM, Colorado Springs, CO

ASSIGNMENTS:

May 1983 – Sep 1983	Rifle/Pistol Instructor, Marine Barracks, Annapolis MD
Sep 1983 – Mar 1984	USMC Basic Officer Training, Quantico, VA
Apr 1984 – Feb 1986	Naval Flight Training, NAS Pensacola, FL & NAS Meridian, MS
Mar 1986 – Oct 1986	F/A-18 Training, NAS Cecil Field, FL
Oct 1986 – Jul 1989	F/A-18 Pilot, Pilot Training Officer, Weapons and Tactics Instructor, Logistics Officer, VMFA-251 MCAS Beaufort, SC
Aug 1989 – Nov 1990	F/A-18 Pilot, Power Projection Tactics Instructor for carrier Air Wings, NAS Fallon, NV
Aug 1990	Operation Desert Shield, USS Independence (CV-62), Persian Gulf
Nov 1990 – Feb 1994	F/A-18 Demonstration Pilot, Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron (Blue Angels), NAS Pensacola, FL
Feb 1994– Apr 1995	Marine Corps Officer, United States Marine Corps Reserve
Apr 1995 – Jun 2007	F-16 Pilot, Montana Air National Guard, MT
Apr 1995 - Jun 2000	Red Flight Commander, Montana Air National Guard, MT
Jun 2000 – Oct 2001	Command Post Officer, Montana Air National Guard, MT
Oct 2001 – Jun 2003	Assistant Director of Operations, 186 FS, Montana Air National Guard, MT
Jun 2003 – Mar 2004	Vice Commander, 120 FW, Montana Air National Guard, MT
Mar 2004 – Jun 2007	Maintenance Group Commander, 120 FW, Montana Air National Guard
Jun 2007 – Jun 2009	J-6, Joint Force Headquarters, Montana National Guard
Jun 2009 – Present	Vice Chief of the Joint Staff / Director of Staff (Air), JFHQ-MT

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Command Pilot
Flight hours: More than 4400 hours (59 Combat)
Aircraft flown: F/A-18 A/C, F-16 ADF/A/C

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster
Air Medal
Aerial Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster
Air Force Commendation Medal
Navy Commendation Medal with one gold star
Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster
AF Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device
Navy Unit Commendation
Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation with two bronze service stars
Combat Readiness Medal with three oak leaf clusters
National Defense Service Medal with one bronze service star
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
Southwest Asia Service medal with one bronze service star
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Sea Service Deployment Ribbon
Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border
AF Longevity Service Ribbon
Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 1 "M" Device
Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (Pistol)
Navy Pistol Shot Medal
Kuwait Liberation Medal Government of Kuwait

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant	25 May 1983
First Lieutenant	25 May 1985
Captain	01 April 1988
Major	01 Sept 1994
Lieutenant Colonel	15 April 1999
Colonel	31 August 2006

(Current as of June 2009)