



BIOGRAPHY

United States Air Force

United States Air Forces Central Command
524 Shaw Drive Suite 100, Shaw AFB, SC 29152

COLONEL RHUDE CHERRY III

Col Rhude Cherry III is the Chief of Staff, United States Air Forces Central Command, Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina. He is responsible for managing and integrating all activities of the headquarters staff. Additionally, he is the chief architect for staff actions sustaining more than 19,000 people across several geographically distributed wings and direct reporting units. These units are responsible for conducting air operations in the 20-nation U.S. Central Command area of responsibility covering Central and Southwest Asia.

Colonel Cherry graduated from The Citadel in 1988 and enlisted in the South Carolina Air National Guard as a firefighter. The colonel was commissioned from the Academy of Military Science in November 1990 and graduated from undergraduate pilot training in February 1992. He entered active duty in 1997 and accepted a Regular Commission in March of 2002. The Colonel was selected for the Afghanistan-Pakistan Hands program in 2010. He has commanded at the squadron and group level, most recently as Commander of the 451st Air Expeditionary Group, Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan.



A command pilot, Colonel Cherry has accumulated over 2500 flying hours in fighters, trainers, and RPAs. Prior to his current position, the colonel was the Deputy Director of Operations, United States Air Forces Central Command, Shaw AFB, S.C.

EDUCATION

- 1987 Distinguished Graduate, Basic Firefighter School, Chanute AFB, Ill.
- 1988 Bachelor of Science Degree, Civil Engineering, The Citadel, Charleston, S.C.
- 1992 Distinguished Graduate and Citizen/Soldier Award, Academy of Military Science, McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn.
- 1998 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2004 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2005 Master of Aeronautical Science with Distinction, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Fla.
- 2007 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2010 Joint Professional Military Education II (Residence-Joint Forces Staff College), Norfolk, Va.
- 2011 Dari Familiarization Course (Defense Language Institute), Washington, D.C.
- 2013 Master of Science, Joint Campaign Planning and Strategy, Joint Advanced Warfighter School, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. January 1987-January 1991, basic firefighter, 169th Civil Engineer Squadron, McEntire Air National Guard Base, S.C.
2. January 1991-February 1992, student, undergraduate pilot training, Laughlin AFB, Tex.
3. February 1992-August 1997, fighter pilot, 157th Fighter Squadron, McEntire ANGB, S.C.
4. August 1997-December 2000, T-38 instructor pilot, check pilot, and flight commander, 50th Flying Training Squadron, Columbus AFB, Miss.
5. December 2000-May 2003, F-16C instructor pilot and assistant operations officer, 13th Fighter Squadron, Misawa Air Base, Japan
6. May 2003-January 2004, chief of wing safety, 35th Fighter Wing, Misawa AB, Japan
7. January 2004-August 2006, F-16 operations inspector, Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Va.
8. August 2006-December 2006, chief of wing plans and programs, 8th Fighter Wing, Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea

9. December 2006-January 2008, 1st Fighter Wing, Langley AFB, Va.; performing duties with the Inspector General as an inspector
10. January 2008-June 2010, commander, 548th Combat Training Squadron, Fort Polk Army Installation, La.
11. June 2010-April 2011, Afghanistan/Pakistan Hands member, Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Va.
12. April 2011-April 2012, operations officer, Commander International Security Assistance Force Advisory and Assistance Team, International Security Assistance Force, Kabul, Afghanistan
13. April 2012-June 2013, student, Joint Advanced Warfighter School, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.
14. June 2013-June 2014, commander, Joint Planning Support Element, Joint Enabling Capabilities Command, Norfolk, Va.
15. August 2014-August 2015, commander, 451st Air Expeditionary Group, Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan
16. August 2015-present, deputy director of operations, and chief of staff, United States Air Forces Central Command, Shaw AFB, S.C.

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. April 2011-April 2012, operations officer, COMISAF Advisory and Assistance Team, International Security Assistance Force, Kabul, Afghanistan, as a lieutenant colonel
2. June 2012-June 2014, commander, Joint Planning Support Element, Joint Enabling Capabilities Command, Norfolk, Va., as a colonel

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight Hours: More than 2,500

Aircraft Flown: T-37, T-38, AT-38, F-18, F-16, and MQ-9

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Superior Service Medal

Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Medal

Aerial Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster

Air Force Achievement Medal

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Registered Professional Engineer, State of South Carolina

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant	Nov. 8, 1990
First Lieutenant	April 15, 1993
Captain	April 1, 1995
Major	May 2, 2002
Lieutenant Colonel	April 1, 2007
Colonel	Jan. 1, 2013

(Current as of September 2016)