

BRIGADIER GENERAL MATTHEW J. FRENCH

Brig. Gen. Matthew French is the Chief of Staff of the Florida Air National Guard (FL ANG), Joint Force Headquarters Florida National Guard, St. Augustine, Florida. He serves as the principal advisor to the FL ANG Commander and is responsible for strategic planning and guidance for the state's wide range of air and space missions. He directs the force development programs and initiatives impacting over 2000 Airmen in diverse units across Florida. General French also serves as a Deputy Combined Forces Air Component Commander for First Air Force, Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida.



General French received his commission in June 1999 upon graduation from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He has served in a variety of operational fighter assignments in U.S. Air Forces Europe and Pacific Air Command. He instructed at the U.S. Air Force Weapons School before transitioning in 2010 from the active duty Air Force to the Florida Air National Guard. He has commanded an operations group and maintenance squadron, and served as the Air National Guard Advisor to an Air Force Major Command. General French is a command pilot with over 2,600 hours in the T-37, T-38, and F-15A-D. He has deployed in support of NATO Alert in Iceland, Operation ATLANTIC RESOLVE in Europe, and flown numerous missions in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE in the United States. Prior to his current assignment he was the commander of the 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville, Florida.

EDUCATION

1999 Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Engineering, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
2004 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
2007 USAF Weapons Instructor Course, Nellis AFB, Nv.
2009 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
2014 Air National Guard Intermediate Development Course, Joint Base Andrews, Md.
2015 Accelerated Aircraft Maintenance Officers Course, Sheppard AFB, Texas
2016 Air National Guard Commanders Development Course, Joint Base Andrews, Md.
2016 Air War College, by correspondence
2016 Master of Arts in Theology, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.
2019 NATO Senior Officer Policy Course, Oberammergau, Germany
2021 NORAD/NORTHCOM Joint Task Force Commanders Course, Colorado Springs, Colo.
2022 NORAD/NORTHCOM Dual Status Commanders Course, Colorado Springs, Colo.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. October 1999 – May 2001, STUDENT, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Columbus AFB, Miss.
2. June 2001 – December 2002, STUDENT, F-15C training, Tyndall AFB, Fla.
3. January 2002 – January 2005, F-15C MISSION COMMANDER, Assistant Chief of Scheduling, Assistant Chief of Weapons, 493rd Fighter Squadron, Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England
4. January 2005 – December 2006, F-15C INSTRUCTOR PILOT, Flight Commander and Group Standardization and Evaluation Flight Examiner, 67th Fighter Squadron and 18th Operations Group, Kadena AB, Okinawa, Japan
5. January 2007 – June 2007, STUDENT, USAF Weapons Instructor Course, Nellis AFB, Nv.
6. June 2007 – June 2008, WEAPONS OFFICER, 67th Fighter Squadron, Kadena AB, Okinawa, Japan
7. June 2008 – June 2010, F-15C WEAPONS INSTRUCTOR, Assistant Director of Operations and Wing Standardization and Evaluation Flight Examiner, 433rd Weapons Squadron and 57th Wing, Nellis AFB, Nv.
8. July 2010 – June 2012, CHIEF OF STANDARDIZATION AND EVALUATION, 125th Operations Group, Jacksonville IAP, Fla.
9. July 2012 – December 2014, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, 159th Fighter Squadron, Jacksonville IAP, Fla.
10. January 2015 – May 2016, COMMANDER, 125th Maintenance Squadron, Jacksonville IAP, Fla.
11. June 2016 – April 2018, COMMANDER, 125th Operations Group, Jacksonville IAP, Fla.

12. May 2018 – December 2019, ANG ADVISOR TO COMMANDER USAFE-AFAFRICA, Ramstein AB, Germany
13. January 2020 – February 2022, COMMANDER r, 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville IAP, Fla.
14. March 2022 – Present, CHIEF OF STAFF, Florida Air National Guard, JFHQ-FL, St. Augustine, Fla.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: more than 2,600

Aircraft flown: T-37, T-38, F-15A-D

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster

Air Force Achievement Medal

Combat Readiness Medal with two oak leaf clusters

CIVILIAN OCCUPATION

Commercial Pilot, Major U.S. Airline

EFFECTIVE DATE OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant June 2, 1999

First Lieutenant June 2, 2001

Captain June 2, 2003

Major November 1, 2008

Lieutenant Colonel January 29, 2013

Colonel June 1, 2017

Brigadier General November 30, 2022

(Current as of August 2023)