



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL KARL S. “BUTCH” BOWERS, JR.

Colonel Karl S. Bowers, Jr. serves as the Vice Wing Commander of the 169th Fighter Wing, South Carolina Air National Guard at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina. As vice wing commander, he is responsible for assisting the wing commander in managing 1,340 Air National Guard and 93 active duty Airman. He supports all requirements for 24 F-16 aircraft and five Army National Guard units which include 36 combat aircraft. Colonel Bowers oversees the wing command post to include support for the 24 hour alert mission. He manages the base’s \$105 million annual budget and the personnel actions associated with 353 full time technicians and 168 AGR personnel. Colonel Bowers also directs the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator program, Foreign Object program Community Action Information Board, and State Air Crisis Action Team. He supervises the base Line of Duty Determination and Incapacitation Pay review processes.



Colonel Bowers is a career Guardsman, enlisting in the SCANG in 1983 after graduating from high school. After attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant, Colonel Bowers earned his commission in the SCANG in 1992 following his selection as a transportation officer and his graduation from the Academy of Military Science at McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base. Colonel Bowers later became a Medical Services Corps officer in the SCANG, serving as the administrator of the 169th Medical Squadron from 1993-95. Colonel Bowers left the SCANG in 1996 to attend law school at Tulane University School of Law in New Orleans, LA, where he continued his military service as an adjunct instructor for the Air Force ROTC Detachment at Tulane while in law school. Upon graduating from law school, Colonel Bowers returned to the SCANG in 1999 as a JAG officer. Prior to assuming the role of Vice Wing Commander, Colonel Bowers served as the State HQ Staff Judge Advocate, advising the Air National Guard Assistant and the Chief of Staff on all Air matters. He also served as the State Judge Advocate to the Adjutant General of the South Carolina National Guard from October 2018 – March 2019.

In his civilian occupation as an attorney, Colonel Bowers is the sole proprietor of the Bowers Law Office in Columbia, SC, where he has a public policy and litigation practice focused on governmental and legislative affairs, campaign finance and election law, and regulatory matters. In 2007, Colonel Bowers was appointed by President George W. Bush as Special Counsel for Voting Matters at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., where he served until returning to private practice in 2008. Prior to that, Colonel Bowers served as Chairman of the South Carolina Election Commission from 2004-2007. A member of the Bar in South Carolina

and the District of Columbia, Colonel Bowers is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, the Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

EDUCATION

1988 Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, University of South Carolina, Columbia
1993 Master of Public Administration, College of Charleston, S.C.
1998 Juris Doctor, cum laude, Tulane University School of Law, New Orleans. L.A.
2001 Squadron Officer School, by correspondence
2011 Air Command & Staff College by correspondence
2015 Air War College, by correspondence

ASSIGNMENTS

March 1983 – February 1992, Enlisted member, 169th Medical Squadron, McEntire JNGB, SC
March 1992 – January 1993, Transportation Officer, 169th Fighter Wing, McEntire JNGB, SC
January 1993 – July 1995, Health Services Administrator, 169th Medical Squadron, McEntire JNGB, SC
February 1999 – February 2016, Deputy and Staff Judge Advocate, 169th Fighter Wing, McEntire JNGB, SC
March 2016 – May 2019, State Staff Judge Advocate, Joint Force Headquarters, McEntire JNGB, SC
June 2019- Present, Vice Wing Commander, 169th Fighter Wing, SCANG, McEntire JNGB, SC

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal
Air Force Achievement Medal
1995 ANG Outstanding Young Healthcare Administrator of the Year

DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant: April 1992
First Lieutenant: May 1994
Captain: February 2000
Major: March 2004
Lieutenant Colonel: May 2010
Colonel: September 2016

(Current as of June 2019)