



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JAMES E. FITCH II

Chief Master Sgt. James “Bill” Fitch serves as 87th Air Base Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. As the senior enlisted leader of the Defense Department’s only tri-service joint base, he is the principle advisor to the installation commander. The wing provides civil engineering, mission support, and medical services to more than 80 mission partners and 42,000 active duty, reserve, guard, civilians, retirees and family members residing on the joint base with an infrastructure valued at \$9 billion. He is also entrusted with the combat readiness, organization, training, professional development and effective utilization of more than 1,200 enlisted Airmen and Sailors. Additionally, he is the functional manager of 21 first sergeants who maintain a mission-ready force and support the military community’s quality-of-life needs.

Chief Fitch entered the Air Force in November 1995, and his background includes duties as an evaluator/instructor boom operator with over 3,600 hours in KC-135R/T Stratotanker. His assignments include bases in North Dakota, Texas, England, Hawaii, Washington and Maryland. He has 16 deployments supporting Operations Southern/Northern Watch, Desert Fox, Allied Force, Enduring/Iraqi Freedom and Joint Guardian. Prior to assuming his current position, he served as the Command Chief Master Sergeant, 89th Airlift Wing, Joint Base Andrews, Md.



EDUCATION

- 1998 KC-135R Stratotanker Central Flight Instructor Course, Altus Air Force Base, Okla.
- 1999 Airman Leadership School, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
- 2002 Associates in Applied Science degree in aviation operations, Community College of the Air Force
- 2005 Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Lackland AFB, Texas
- 2005 Associates in Applied Science degree in instructor of technology/military science, CCAF
- 2006 CCAF Occupational Instructor Certification
- 2009 Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Maxwell AFB-Gunter Annex, Ala.
- 2013 Senior Enlisted Joint PME Course, National Defense University
- 2014 Chief Leadership Course, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii
- 2016 Command Chief Master Sergeant Training Course, Randolph AFB, Texas
- 2016 Senior Enlisted Legal Orientation Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2017 Leadership Development Program, Center for Creative Leadership, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- 2018 Enterprise Leadership Seminar, Kenan-Flagler Business School, Chapel Hill, N.C.
- 2018 Continuous Process Improvement for Executives, Institute for Defense and Business, Alexandria, Va.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. 1995 - 1995, Trainee, Basic Military Training, Lackland AFB, Texas
2. 1996 - 1996, Student, Enlisted Aircrew Undergraduate Course, Sheppard AFB, Texas
3. 1996 - 1996, Basic Boom Operator Course, Initial Qualification, Altus AFB, Okla.
4. 1996 - 2002, Mission, Instructor, Evaluator Boom Operator, 911th Air Refueling Squadron, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
5. 2002 - 2006, Enlisted Aircrew Undergraduate Course Center of Excellence Instructor, 344th Training Refueling Squadron, Lackland AFB, Texas
6. 2006 - 2010, First Sergeant, Operations Superintendent, 351st ARS, Royal Air Force Mildenhall, United Kingdom

7. 2010 - 2010, Superintendent, Standardization & Evaluation, 100th Operations Group, RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom
8. 2010 - 2013, Squadron Superintendent, 92nd ARS, Fairchild AFB, Wash.
9. 2011 - 2012, Group Superintendent, First Sergeant, 376th Air Expeditionary Group, Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan
10. 2013 - 2014, Squadron Superintendent, 96th ARS, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii
11. 2013 - 2014, Group Superintendent, 15th OG, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii
12. 2014 - 2016, Group Superintendent, 92nd OG, Fairchild AFB, Wash.
13. 2016 - 2018, Command Chief Master Sergeant, 89th Airlift Wing, Joint Base Andrews, Md.
14. 2018 - Present, Command Chief Master Sergeant, 87th Air Base Wing, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit

Meritorious Service Medal with one silver leaf cluster

Air Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Aerial Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal

Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Joint Meritorious Unit Award

Meritorious Unit Award with one oak leaf cluster

AF Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device and two silver leaf clusters

Combat Readiness Medal with two oak leaf clusters

National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with two bronze stars

Kosovo Campaign Medal with one bronze star

Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one bronze star

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal

Nuclear Deterrence Operations Medal with three oak leaf clusters

NATO Medal for Kosovo

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

1999 Airman Leadership School, Leadership Award

1999 319th Operations Group, Boom Operator of the Year

2001 911th Air Refueling Squadron, NCO of the Year

2004 344th Training Squadron, Instructor of the Year

2005 NCO Academy, Distinguished Graduate

2005 344th Training Squadron, NCO of the Year

2008 351st Air Refueling Squadron, Senior NCO of the Year

2009 100th Operations Group, Senior NCO of the Year

2011 92nd Air Refueling Squadron, Senior NCO of the Year

2012 92nd Operations Group, Senior NCO of the Year

2013 96th Air Refueling Squadron, Senior NCO of the Year

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Airman First Class – Dec. 16, 1995

Senior Airman – Oct. 16, 1997

Staff Sergeant – July 1, 2000

Technical Sergeant – July 1, 2004

Master Sergeant – July 1, 2007

Senior Master Sergeant – March 1, 2011

Chief Master Sergeant – Sept. 1, 2014

(Current as of February 2019)