



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT STEVEN D. BEST

Chief Master Sergeant Steven D. Best currently serves as the eleventh State Command Chief Master Sergeant for the Kentucky Air National Guard, Joint Force Headquarters, Frankfort, Kentucky. Chief Best advises The Adjutant General and his staff on all matters influencing mission readiness, training, promotion, retention, professional development, utilization, health, morale, welfare, and assignment policy affecting the entire state's enlisted airmen and their families.

Chief Best enlisted in the Kentucky Air National Guard in February 1998 as an Air Transportation Specialist. In 2002 and 2003 he deployed to Ramstein Air Base, Germany in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2008 Best deployed again to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was selected as the 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron First Sergeant in 2010 and was recognized as the Kentucky Air National Guard First Sergeant of the Year in 2015. Also, in 2015 he served as the First Sergeant to the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron assisting the Squadron Commander and Chiefs with valued input on management of personnel assigned to the 379th Expeditionary Airlift Group, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. He returned to the Air Transportation career field in 2016 in various functional areas to include the Air



Terminal Operations Center Superintendent and as the Air Terminal Senior Enlisted Leader. From November 2020 through March 2022, Best was instrumental in providing COVID-19 pandemic relief efforts by leading a Facility Administration Support Team throughout the state of Kentucky, rendering aid to understaffed hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers and supporting various vaccination sites.

Prior to his current position, Chief Best was the 123 Airlift Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant, 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, KY

EDUCATION

- 1998 2T2X1 Air Transportation Technical School, Lackland Air Force Base, TX
- 2002 Airman Leadership School, (Non-Residence), Lackland Air Force Base, TX
- 2008 USAF NCO Academy (Non-Residence), Maxwell Air Force Base, AL
- 2008 AMC Affiliation Load Planner's Course, Savannah, GA
- 2009 2T271 7-Level School, Lackland Air Force Base, TX
- 2010 USAF First Sergeant Academy, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL
- 2012 USAF SNCO Academy (Non-Residence), Maxwell Air Force Base, AL
- 2013 Associate in applied science, Transportation, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL
- 2014 Associate in applied science, Human Resources, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL

2018 Contemporary Base Issues, Louisville, KY
2021 Intrepid Leadership Course, Louisville, KY
2022 Chief Master Sergeants Orientation Course for Air National Guard, Joint Base Andrews, MD
2022 Bachelor of Science, Interdisciplinary Studies, Lindsey Wilson College, Columbia, KY
2023 Command Chief Master Sergeant Training Course, Lackland Air Force Base, TX

ASSIGNMENTS

Feb 1998 - Aug 2005, Ramp/Cargo Processing, 123rd Aerial Port Squadron, 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, KY
Sep 2005 - Oct 2009, Training Flight NCOIC, 123rd Aerial Port Squadron, 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, KY
Nov 2009 - Jun 2015, First Sergeant, 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, KY
Jul 2015 – May 2019, Air Terminal Operations Superintendent, Small Air Terminal, 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, KY
Jun 2019 – Apr 2022, Senior Enlisted Leader, Delta Flight, 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, KY
May 2022 – Apr 2025, 123 Airlift Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant, 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, KY
Apr 2025 – Present, State Command Chief Master Sergeant, Joint Force Headquarters KYANG, Frankfort. Ky

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster
Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Air Force Achievement Medal
Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with eight oak leaf clusters
National Defense Service Medal
Humanitarian Service Medal
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Air & Space Campaign Medal
Air and Space Overseas Ribbon Short
Air and Space Expeditionary Service Ribbon with
Air and Space Longevity Service Award
Armed Forces Reserve Medal with four M devices
Developmental Special Duty Ribbon

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2015 Kentucky Air National Guard First Sergeant of the Year

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Air Force Sergeants Association
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kentucky

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Airman First Class	February 25, 1998
Senior Airman	October 1, 1998
Staff Sergeant	October 1, 2002
Technical Sergeant	January 1, 2005
Master Sergeant	January 12, 2010
Senior Master Sergeant	July 12, 2015
Chief Master Sergeant	August 1, 2019

(Current as of April
2025)