



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JAMES R. TONGATE

Command Chief Master Sergeant James R. Tongate currently serves as the tenth State Command Chief Master Sergeant for the Kentucky Air National Guard, Joint Force Headquarters, Frankfort, Kentucky. Chief Tongate 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.

Tongate entered active duty military service in June 1986, graduated October 1986 from the Aircrew Life Support Apprentice Technical School, and was assigned to the 18th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Eielson Air Force Base (AFB), Alaska. Tongate's follow-on assignment was to Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota as the Aircrew Life Support NCOIC. In 1991 as the Gulf War was ending, he chose to leave active military service. In February 1997, Tongate joined the Kentucky Army National Guard as a "96 Bravo" Military Intelligence Specialist, where he analyzed and evaluated Army intelligence to determine changes in enemy capabilities, vulnerabilities, and probable courses of actions. Working closely with the ANG he found an opportunity to return to the Aircrew Life Support career field at the 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard.



Tongate deployed supporting numerous missions as the Assistant NCOIC for Aircrew Life Support. While deployed to the CENTCOM AOR, and supporting OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, the Chief earned numerous accolades. In August 2003, Tongate cross-trained into the C-130 Tactical Loadmaster career field and in the 165th Airlift Squadron flew over 1760 hours (274 combat) supporting missions to include: Hurricane Ivan, Ike, Katrina and Sandy Relief, Presidential Support, Haiti Earthquake Relief, AFSOC and United States Army Paratrooper airdrops, United Nation (Bosnia/Kosovo), and three combat tours to Afghanistan in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM. Prior to his current position, the Chief was the Wing Human Resource Advisor, the additional duty First Sergeant and an active member of the Inspector General's Wing Inspection Team, 123 AW, KYANG, Louisville, Ky.

EDUCATION

- 1986 Aircrew Life Support Apprentice Technical School, Chanute Air Force Base (AFB), ILL.
- 1989 Noncommissioned Officer Preparatory Course, Eielson AFB, Alaska
- 1988 United States Air Force Arctic Survival School, Eielson AFB, Alaska
- 1988 United States Air Force Water Survival School, Homestead AFB, Fla.
- 2000 Aircrew Life Support Craftsman Technical School, Sheppard AFB, Texas
- 2001 United States Air Force Basic Land Survival School, Fairchild AFB, Wash.
- 2003 C-130H Loadmaster Apprentice Technical School, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
- 2004 Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, Ky., by correspondence
- 2010 Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, Ky., by correspondence
- 2013 Associate of Applied Science, Aviation Operations, Community College of the Air Force, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2015 Human Resource Advisor Orientation Course (HRAOC), Andrews AFB, Md.
- 2018 United States Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Leadership Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2019 Air National Guard Chief Master Sergeant Orientation Course, Joint Base Andrews AFB, Md.
- 2020 Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education, Joint Force Staff College, Norfolk, Va. by correspondence
- 2021 Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sergeant Training Course, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas

ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 1986-August 1986, Basic Military Training, Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), Texas
2. October 1986-October 1989, Aircrew Life Support Specialist, 18th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Eielson AFB, Alaska
3. October 1989-March 1991, Aircrew Life Support Quality NCOIC, 28th Bomb Wing, Ellsworth AFB, S.D.
4. February 1997-December 1997, Military Intelligence Specialist, 149th Infantry Brigade HQ, Kentucky Army National Guard, Louisville, Ky.
5. December 1997-February 2004, Aircrew Life Support Technician, 165th Airlift Squadron, Kentucky Air National Guard (KYANG), Louisville, Ky.
6. February 2004-May 2015, C-130H Tactical Loadmaster, 165th Airlift Squadron, KYANG, Louisville, Ky.
7. May 2015- May 2021, Wing Human Resource Advisor, 123rd Airlift Wing, KYANG, Louisville, Ky.
8. May 2021-Present, State Command Chief Master Sergeant, Joint Force Headquarters KYANG, Frankfort. Ky.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Senior Enlisted Aircrew
Flight Hours: More than 1,760 hours
Combat Flight Hours: 274 hours
Aircraft Flown: C130E and C130H

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal
Air Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Air Force Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster
Meritorious Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with two silver oak leaf clusters
Combat Readiness Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Air Force Good Conduct Medal with oak leaf cluster
Kosovo Campaign Medal with bronze campaign star
Afghanistan Campaign Medal with bronze campaign star
Armed Forces Service Medal
Humanitarian Service Medal with bronze campaign star
Air Force Overseas Ribbon Long
Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with gold border and oak leaf cluster
Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M device and gold hour glass
NATO Medal with bronze campaign star

STATE AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal
Kentucky State Active Duty Ribbon with oak leaf cluster

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2014 - Top 25 Louisville Veteran Business Leaders Award – Louisville Business First

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) - Member
Veterans of Foreign Wars - Post 1170
American Legion – Post 295
USA Cares (501c3) – Military Protocol Advisor & Volunteer
Kentucky Education & Employment Partnership for Veterans (KEEP VETS) – Board Member
Eastern Kentucky University Veterans Studies Advisory Council – Board Member
Civilian Ready® Alliance Team – Board Member

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Staff Sergeant Sept. 1, 2000
Technical Sergeant Sept. 1, 2002
Master Sergeant Oct. 21, 2006
Senior Master Sergeant Sept. 12, 2015
Chief Master Sergeant June 1, 2018
Command Chief Master Sergeant May 2021

(Current as of May 2022)