

WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD

2400 Wright Street • Madison • WI • 53704

Biography

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT THOMAS J. SAFER

Wisconsin Air National Guard

Chief Master Sergeant Thomas J. Safer is the Wisconsin Air National Guard Command Chief, Joint Force Headquarters, Madison, Wis. As such, he is the top Air National Guard senior enlisted advisor to the Adjutant General on quality of life issues and concerns of the state's 2,200 enlisted Airmen. In addition, he acts as liaison with the Assistant Adjutants General for Air and Army, the state Command Sergeant Major, Director of Staff and other staff members. He provides counsel to Wing commanders and works closely with Wing command chiefs and first sergeants. He has oversight of four geographically separated areas within the state, encompassing Airmen at the 115th Fighter Wing and Joint Force Headquarters in Madison, 128th Air Refueling Wing in Milwaukee, and Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center near Camp Douglas.



Chief Safer entered the Air Force in November 1982 and served in the aerospace maintenance career field. He has participated in Operations Desert Shield, Shining Hope, Joint Guardian and Iraqi Freedom. During these operations, Chief Safer ensured that combat ready reliable aircraft were available 24/7 to meet a variety of critical missions. He served four years on active duty and then 20 years in the US Air Force Reserves attaining the position of aircraft maintenance superintendent. In 2007, Chief Safer joined the Air National Guard and made significant contributions as the quality assurance superintendent, maintenance group superintendent and chiefs council president. In 2013, Chief Safer was selected as the 115th Fighter Wing Command Chief and spent the next three years developing Airmen into combat ready warriors until assuming his current assignment in February 2016. Chief Safer also serves as the Director of the Air National Guard Chief's Executive Course providing new Chief Master Sergeants the tools to effectively lead at the tactical, operational and strategic level.

Chief Safer earned an associate degree in Aviation Maintenance Technology at the Community College of the Air Force in 2014, and completed numerous military courses

Chief Safer is a member of the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard, the Noncommissioned Officers Association, and the Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sergeants Alumni Association.

Chief Safer's military awards include the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Meritorious Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with eight oak leaf clusters and valor device, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with eight oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with one bronze star, Kosovo Campaign Medal with one bronze star, Iraq Campaign Medal with one bronze star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Air Force Expeditionary Medal with gold border with six oak leaf clusters, Air Force Longevity Service Award with six oak leaf clusters, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 4 "M" devices, United States Air Force Noncommissioned Officer Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Air Force Training Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation Medal Government of Kuwait, and the Lieutenant General Leo Marquez Award

6 Feb 2016