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Allbritten Takes Command of Tennessee's 118th Wing

NASHVILLE, *Tenn.* - The Tennessee Air National Guard's 118th Wing, headquartered in Nashville, received a new commander on October 3, 2015. Col. Thomas Echols, of Franklin, Tenn., relinquished command to Col. Keith Allbritten, a native of Murfreesboro, Tenn., during a formal ceremony at the base.

Col. Allbritten has served as the Vice Commander for the Wing since April 2012. Col. Echols had served as the Wing commander since October 2012. His retirement ceremony was held the same day, shortly after the official change of command.

Col. Allbritten graduated from Murray State University in Murray, Ky., in 1988, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics. He entered the Air Force in 1989 as a navigator, serving at Mather and Castle Air Force Bases in California. He transferred to the Tennessee Air National Guard in March 2000, serving as a navigator instructor/evaluator for the 118th Airlift Wing in Nashville, Tenn.

While working with the 118th, he has served as the Operations Officer and Squadron Commander for the 105th Airlift Squadron, 118th Airlift Wing, as well as the Deputy Commander for the 118th Operations Group prior to becoming the vice commander for the base.

Allbritten is rated as a Master Navigator with more than 6,200 flight hours in multiple aircraft, including the T-37, T-43, KC-135A/R, C-130E/H2, and WC-130H. He has over 340 combat hours and has flown in support of numerous Operations while deployed, to include Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Deny Flight, Restore Hope, Joint Guard, Joint Forge, Joint Endeavor, Coronet Oak, Noble Eagle, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom.

His numerous awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with Valor, Army Commendation Medal and Joint Meritorious Unit Award.



PHOTO CAPTION:

Col. Keith Allbritten, right, accepts the 118th Wing guidon from Brig. Gen. Donald Johnson, the Assistant Adjutant General of the Tennessee Air National Guard, left, during an official change of command ceremony October 3 at Joint Base Berry Field in Nashville, Tenn. The guidon exchange is a military tradition to demonstrate the transfer of command from one person to another. (Air National Guard photo by Staff. Sgt. Krista Hair/RELEASED).

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