

BIOGRAPHY

COLONEL (USAF Retired) GEORGE G. LONDON JR.

Col. George G. London Jr., a native of Wilmington, North Carolina and a graduate of Williston Senior High School, had a varied and illustrious career. Following high school graduation, he enlisted for four years in the Air Force in 1965 and served in communications intelligence. In 1969, he then attended North Carolina A&T State University and graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Col. London entered the Air Force Undergraduate Pilot Training program in June 1973 at Webb AFB, Texas and following graduation remained there as a T-38 instructor pilot. When Webb AFB closed in 1977, he was reassigned to McGuire AFB, New Jersey as a C-141 pilot, instructor pilot, and command post duty officer.

He entered a master's degree engineering program at the Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio in 1981 and graduated with a Master of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering, specializing in structural dynamics, structural materials, and structural analysis. His directed duty assignment was to the Foreign Technology Division at Wright-Patterson as a project manager for a short period before attending the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards AFB, California.

He graduated from Test Pilot School in June 1984 becoming 9th of what are now 29 black graduates (out of 2,913) from the school's 75-year history. Reassigned as a test pilot to the 4952nd Test Squadron, he flew various models of the C-135 and C-18 aircraft. He was a test pilot on the first flight of the EC-18B and participated in all aspects of the flight test program.

During the summer of 1988, he returned to the USAF Test Pilot School (TPS) as an academic instructor, flight instructor, and Chief of the Administration Section. Col. London taught the engine-out theory and aeroelasticity graduate level engineering academic courses and taught flight-test techniques in the NKC-135 and T-38 aircraft. Research indicates Col. London was the first black test pilot instructor at the school.

In June 1990, he was assigned to the C-17 Combined Test Force at Edwards and on September 15, 1991, flew as co-pilot on the first flight of the C-17, the Air Force's newest airlifter (\$343M airplane). Col. London was the first black American to fly the first flight on a new military aircraft in this country according to evaluated military records. He subsequently became Commander of the 417th Test Squadron that was responsible for the daily flight test operations of the Air Force's only C-17's (five airplanes worth \$1.2B) and approximately 900 individuals supporting the C-17 test program (a portion of the \$43B C-17 Procurement Program).

He was assigned, from September 1993 to July 1996, to the Air Force Headquarters, Pentagon, in the Test and Evaluation Directorate as the Deputy Director, Test Resources

Division responsible for the Air Force's Test and Evaluation budget and other T&E infrastructure related issues. Subsequently, he was reassigned as the Deputy Director for the Joint Program Office for Test and Evaluation, Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland.

Since his retirement from the Air Force in November 1998, Col. London has worked as a Senior Engineer Consultant with TRW and as an Adjunct/Permanent Research Staff Member with the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA). He works with the scouting program and volunteers in numerous activities within his community and church. He also, on a volunteer basis, teaches courses on understanding and building computers, understanding and designing networks, and some courses in Microsoft Office products. From August 2003 to Jun 2020, he taught high school students at Bishop McNamara High School. He taught many different courses including various math, four Cisco Certified Network Associates Courses, Introduction to Cybersecurity, Physics, and AP Physics.

In addition to teaching high school, Col. London spent 10 years (2010 – 2020) as President of H.J. Aviation, LLC, a flying training school located at Potomac Airfield in Fort Washington, Maryland. During the month of October 2019, one of his student pilots obtained his private pilot license on his 17th birthday as a high school junior and prior to being licensed to drive. Another of his students, also 17, obtained his private pilot license and has begun his college career. Our students continue a path towards a very successful future. Currently, Col. London is the Executive Director of Columbia Training Centers, Incorporation.

His significant accomplishments and awards include being a ROTC distinguished graduate, flying over 57 different types of aircraft, with over 7,000 hours of flight time and the 1991 recipient of the General Bobby Bond Memorial Aviator Award. This award is presented yearly to the Air Force Materiel Command's top aviator. Col. London currently has the following civilian flight instructor certificates; Certified Flight Instructor (CFI), Certified Flight Instructor Instruments (CFII) and Multi-Engine Instructor (MEI).

Col. London's decorations include three Meritorious Service Medals, five Air Medals (Vietnam flight activity), Air Force Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and the Air Force Good Conduct Medal.

Col. London is married to the former Lenette Turner of Dayton, Ohio. They have four daughters, Tamica, Myeshia, Jenese, and Jania and ten grandchildren.