



# BIOGRAPHY

## KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Headquarters – Kansas Air National Guard  
State Defense Building  
2800 SW Topeka Blvd.  
Topeka, KS 66611-1287

### BRIGADIER GENERAL BRIAN E. BARENTS



Brigadier General Brian E. Barents, 55, is the Assistant Adjutant General (Air) and the Commander, Kansas Air National Guard, Topeka, Kansas. In this role, he commands the entire Kansas Air National Guard, which is composed of the state's Bomb Wing, Air Refueling Wing, Air Control Squadron and Weather Flight.

Brigadier General Barents is a native of Michigan. He graduated from Livonia Bentley High School in 1962 and from Western Michigan University in 1966 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. He began graduate studies at the University of Michigan and entered the Michigan Air National Guard in 1966. He is also a graduate of Undergraduate Pilot Training, Squadron Officers School, Air Command and Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Brigadier General Barents was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Michigan Air National Guard in 1968 and entered Undergraduate Pilot Training the same year at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma. Upon graduation in 1969, he returned to Michigan's 127<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, where he flew the RF-84, the RF-101, and the F-100, during which time he also served as flight commander. He joined the Kansas Air National Guard's 127<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Training Squadron in 1977, flying and instructing in the F-105 and then the F-4D. From 1981 to 1982, he was the commander of the 127<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Squadron during its transition to the Air National Guard's Fighter Weapon Instructor School. He became the Numbered Air Force Planning and Program Officer, Headquarters, Kansas Air National Guard in 1982. He returned to the 184<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Group in 1983, first serving as the Group Air Operations Officer and then as commander of the 184<sup>th</sup> Resource Management Squadron. During this time, he continued to fly as an F-4D instructor pilot. Brigadier General Barents was appointed Director of Operations for Headquarters, Kansas Air National Guard in 1990. In 1993, he became the Deputy Chief of Staff, and was appointed Chief of Staff in November 1994. He assumed his current position as Assistant Adjutant General (Air) in September 1997. Brigadier General Barents was promoted to Brigadier General effective August 2, 1996, with the pinning ceremony on October 5, 1996.