

Caine Nominated for JCS Chairman



From the U.S. Department of Defense, March 11, 2025

Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth announced today that the president has made the following nomination:

Air Force Lt. Gen. John D. Caine (Ret.) for appointment to the grade of general, with assignment as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Below is the Air Force's official biography of Caine:

Lt. Gen. Dan Caine was the Associate Director for Military Affairs. His most recent assignment was as the Director of Special Programs and the Department of Defense Special Access Program Central Office at the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia, where he served as the principal staff assistant and advisor to the Secretary of Defense for all programs protected under special access controls. He has served in a wide range of operational, staff and joint assignments, primarily as an F-16 fighter pilot, weapons officer, member of the White House staff and special operations officer.

Lt. Gen. Caine was commissioned in 1990 through the ROTC program at the Virginia Military Institute, and he has an Master of Arts in Air Warfare from the American Military University. He has completed a range of national security and leadership courses, including Harvard Kennedy School's course for Senior Executives in National and International Security, and the Syracuse University Maxwell School's Program on National Security. As a Command Pilot, he has logged more than 2,800 hours in the F-16, including more than 150 combat hours. From 2009-2016, Lt. Gen. Caine was a part-time member of the National Guard and a serial entrepreneur and investor.

EDUCATION

1990 Bachelor of Arts, Economics, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington

1998 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., by correspondence

1999 Air Force Weapons School Instructor Course, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

2001 Air Force Air to Ground Operations School, Nellis, AFB,

Nev.

2004 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence

2005 Master of Arts, Air Warfare, American Military University, Charles Town, W.Va.

2006 White House Fellow, Air Force Fellows Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

2012 North American Aerospace Defense Command/U.S. Northern Command Joint Task Force Commander Training Course, Peterson AFB, Colo.

2012 Senior Leaders Maintenance Course, Washington, D.C.

2017 Joint and Combined Warfighting Course (JPME-2), Norfolk, Va.

2019 Capstone, National Defense University, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.

2019 Senior Executives for National and International Security, The Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, Mass.

2020 Advanced Senior Leader Development Seminar (ASLDS), Arlie Center, Warrenton, Va.

2020 National and International Security Leadership Seminar (NISLS), Alan L. Freed Associates, Alexandria, Va.

2021 National Security Studies Management Course (NSSMC), Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. November 1992–December 1993, Student, EURO-NATO Undergraduate Pilot Training, 80th Flying Training Wing, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas

2. January 1994–April 1994, F-16 Pilot/Assistant Training Officer/Scheduling Officer, 138th Fighter Squadron, Syracuse Air National Guard Base, N.Y.

3. April 1994–June 1995, F-16 Pilot/Assistant Weapons Officer, 138th FS, Syracuse ANG, N.Y.

4. June 1995–November 1995, F-16 Instructor Pilot/Chief of Scheduling and Training, 138th FS, Syracuse ANG, N.Y.

5. November 1995–April 1998, F-16 Instructor Pilot/Chief of Training, 138th FS, Syracuse ANG, N.Y.

6. April 1998–July 1998, F-16 Instructor Pilot/Chief of Weapons, 138th FS, Syracuse ANG, N.Y.
7. July 1998–January 1999, F-16 Instructor Pilot/Chief of Weapons, 121st FS, Andrews AFB, Md.
8. January 1999–June 1999, Student, F-16 Fighter Weapons School, 57th Fighter Wing, Nellis AFB, Nev.
9. June 1999–November 2001, F-16 Instructor Pilot/Flight Commander/Chief of Weapons and Tactics, 121st FS, Andrews AFB, Md.
10. November 2001–February 2002, F-16 Mission Commander/Chief of Group Weapons and Tactics, 332d Air Expeditionary Group, Ahmed Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait
11. February 2002–January 2003, Counter SCUD Project Officer, United States Central Command, MacDill AFB, Fla.
12. January 2003–May 2003, F-16 Mission Commander/Flight Commander/Chief of Wing Weapons and Tactics, 410th Air Expeditionary Wing, Location Masked
13. May 2003–January 2005, Chief of Weapons and Current Operations, ANG AFRC Test Center, Tucson ANG, Ariz.
14. January 2005–August 2005, Director of Operations, ANG AFRC Test Center, Tucson ANG, Ariz.
15. August 2005–September 2006, White House Fellow, Special Assistant to the Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.
16. October 2006–January 2008, Policy Director for Counterterrorism and Strategy, White House Homeland Security Council, Executive Office of the President, Washington, D.C.
17. January 2008–July 2008, J3 and Commander, Joint Special Operations Task Force – Air Directorate, Balad, Iraq
18. July 2008–November 2010, F-16 Instructor Pilot/Mission Commander, 121st FS, Andrews AFB, Md. (July 2008–March 2010, Special Tactics Air Liaison Officer, 24th Special Tactics Squadron, Joint Special Operations Command, Pope AFB, N.C.)
19. November 2010–June 2012, Director of Operations (A3)/Deputy Director of Joint Operations (J3), Joint Force Headquarters, District of Columbia ANG, Washington, D.C.
20. June 2012–June 2014, Commander, 113th Maintenance Group,

Joint Base Andrews, Md.

21. June 2014–May 2016, Director of Joint Operations and Training (J3), Joint Force Headquarters, District of Columbia ANG, Washington, D.C.

22. May 2016–June 2016, Deputy Commanding General, Air, Joint Force Headquarters, District of Columbia ANG, Washington, D.C.

23. June 2016–May 2018, June 2016–May 2018, Assistant to the Vice Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, Special Operations Command Washington Office, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va. and Assistant Commanding General, Joint Special Operations Command, U.S. Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C. (Concurrently)

24. May 2018–September 2019, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Central Command Special Operations Component and Deputy Commanding General–Special Operations Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve (Iraq) (Concurrently)

25. September 2019–September 2021, Director, Special Programs and Director, Special Access Programs Central Office, Va.

26. September 2021–November 2021, Special Assistant to the Chief, National Guard Bureau, Washington, D.C.

27. November 2021–December 2024, Associate Director for Military Affairs, Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, D.C.

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. February 2002–January 2003, Counter SCUD Project Officer, United States Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. as a major

2. August 2005–September 2006, White House Fellow, Special Assistant to the Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. as a lieutenant colonel

3. October 2006–January 2008, Policy Director for Counterterrorism and Strategy, White House Homeland Security Council, Executive Office of the President, Washington, D.C., as a lieutenant colonel

4. January 2008–July 2008, J3 and Commander, Joint Special

Operations Task Force – Air Directorate, Balad, Iraq, as a lieutenant colonel

5. June 2016–May 2018, June 2016–May 2018, Assistant to the Vice Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, Special Operations Command Washington Office, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va. and Assistant Commanding General, Joint Special Operations Command, U.S. Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C. (Concurrently), as a brigadier general

6. May 2018–September 2019, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Central Command Special Operations Component and Deputy Commanding General - Special Operations Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve (Iraq) (Concurrently), as a brigadier general

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: command pilot

Flight hours: 2,800 hours, to include more than 100 combat hours

Aircraft flown: T-37, T-38 and F-16

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Distinguished Service Medal

Defense Superior Service Medal with bronze oak leaf cluster

Distinguished Flying Cross

Bronze Star Medal with bronze oak leaf cluster

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with bronze oak leaf cluster

Air Medal with bronze oak leaf cluster

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with two bronze oak leaf clusters

Joint Service Achievement Medal

Air Force Achievement Medal

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with “V” device and four bronze oak leaf clusters

Combat Readiness Medal

National Defense Service Medal with bronze campaign star

Iraq Campaign Medal
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Air Force Expeditionary Service Medal
Air Force Longevity Service Award with three bronze oak leaf clusters
Armed Forces Reserve Medal with hourglass device
Air Force Training Ribbon
Presidential Service Badge

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

1992 Distinguished Graduate, EURO-NATO Undergraduate Pilot Training
1999 Outstanding Graduate, USAF F-16 Weapons School
2004 Lieutenant General Claire Chennault Award as the Air Force's Outstanding Aerial Tactician
Multiple Civilian Pilot Ratings, including Air Transport Pilot

PUBLICATIONS

"The Air Force Book," The Air Force Association, September 11th vignette
"Concept of Operations for the location, identification and destruction of Scud Missiles," Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2003
"Hurricane Katrina Lessons Learned Report," The White House, March 2006
"The National Strategy for Homeland Security," The White House, October 2007

(Current as of February 2025)