



**“SHOWTIME MAY ANSWER”**  
United States Air Force Reserve  
by Lieutenant Colonel Warren F. Neary, 2014



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When you call for airpower, Showtime may answer. In March 2013, an Iranian F-4 was chasing an MQ-1 Remotely Piloted Aircraft over the Arabian Gulf. Air controllers called for help and Reservist Lt Col Kevin “Showtime” Sutterfield, an F-22 Raptor pilot with the 477th Fighter Group at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, answered. He closed in on the Iranian and flew underneath him to inspect the F-4’s weapons. The Iranian pilot was unaware he had a pair of F-22s on his six until Showtime popped up directly off his wing and told him he should go home. The F-4 beat a hasty retreat back to Iranian airspace. Showtime is air superiority. It is foundational to everything we do in the United States military. Without it, everything else has to change. We can’t afford to forget that.

## **AIR FORCE RESERVE**

The Air Force Reserve is a combat-ready force, composed of more than 70,000 Reserve Citizen Airmen, stationed locally at over 60 locations throughout the United States and serving globally for every Combatant Command in air, space and cyberspace.

We are a cost efficient and mission-effective force, providing the nation with operational capability, strategic depth and surge capacity, both overseas and here at home. The Air Force Reserve’s wide-ranging operational capability serves the diverse needs of every Combatant Commander, whose requirements are as varied as the geographic and functional areas they support.

Air Force Reserve Command directly supports the homeland with capabilities, including aerial fire fighting, aerial spray, and weather reconnaissance, better known as the “Hurricane Hunters.” Our relationship with other federal agencies, including the National Weather Service and US Forest Service, demonstrates how federal, military and civilian organizations can work together to support the entire nation.

The majority of our Reservists serve alongside our active duty counterparts in association constructs. Approximately two-thirds of the Air Force’s associations are with the Air Force Reserve. Integrating through associations delivers significant taxpayer value, both in cost savings and improved mission effectiveness, by sharing aircraft, equipment and facilities with the active duty.

Value is also gained from “Airmen for Life” as the Air Force Reserve retains the experience and training cost of a member’s active duty service. As over 75 percent of our Reserve Citizen Airmen serve part-time, this combat-tested experience stays in a highly cost-efficient force, available whenever the nation calls. Further, the nation benefits from the intrinsic value gained by a member’s civilian experience in a variety of career fields, from pilots and nurses to space and cyberspace professionals.

## **AIR FORCE RESERVE MISSION**

Provide Combat-Ready Forces to Fly, Fight and Win.

### **MISSION SETS**

The Air Force Reserve currently performs about 20 percent of the work of the Air Force, including traditional flying missions and other more specialized missions, such as Weather Reconnaissance, Aerial Fire Fighting, Aerial Spray and Personnel Recovery.

### **WHERE AIR FORCE RESERVISTS ARE CURRENTLY SERVING OR DEPLOYED**

Afghanistan, Bahrain, Djibouti (Horn of Africa), El Salvador, Ethiopia, Germany, Guam, Guantanamo Bay, Honduras, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Niger, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Thailand, Turkey and Uganda.



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