



“DETERRENCE ON DEMAND”
United States Air Force Reserve
by Lieutenant Colonel Warren F. Neary, 2015

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The United States Air Force provided the President of the United States of America with two legs of the strategic triad which consisted of strategic bombers, intercontinental ballistic missiles, and submarine launched ballistic missiles. The long range strike capability of the Air Force's B-52 Stratofortress and B-2 Spirit represented the bomber leg of the strategic triad. Capable of projecting nuclear military power across the globe at any time and place, the strategic triad provided an influential backstop for America's other instruments of power.

On 18 March 2013, the Air Force Reserve Command's 307th Bomb Wing, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, reached a milestone when it passed its Initial Nuclear Surety Inspection (NSI). The NSI certified that 307th Bomb Wing personnel were fully qualified to perform the Air Force's nuclear mission. The certification made the 307th Bomb Wing's 343rd Bomb Squadron and the 707th Maintenance Squadron the Air Force Reserve Command's first nuclear squadrons.

This painting depicts the great Airmen of the 307th BW in a nuclear aircraft generation exercise with pilots, navigators, maintainers and security forces members ramping up a mission on a cool, early morning at Barksdale AFB.

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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