



“A PIONEERING AVIATOR’S LEGACY OF SERVICE”

Office of History and Heritage
United States Air Force Reserve
by Senior Master Sergeant Darby Perrin, 2020

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From a young age Lieutenant General Stayce Harris knew she wanted to serve her country. Much of her inspiration is attributed to her father Clyde who served in the United States Air Force throughout her formative years. His example, as well as the opportunity to live in new and exciting places, led General Harris to follow in his footsteps.

Although she never set out to break barriers, she proved to be a pioneer in aviation and leadership throughout her career. Inspired to become a pilot by an ROTC instructor, as a cadet, General Harris decided that being a pilot was her aspiration. When challenges arose during pilot training, she reflected on the sacrifices the Tuskegee Airmen made which afforded her the opportunity to fly. As a Lieutenant, General Harris earned her pilot’s wings in 1984 and would go on to complete over 2,500 hours flying the C-141B Starlifter, C-130H Hercules, and KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft.

In 2016, President Barack Obama nominated her to be promoted to the rank of lieutenant general. Upon her promotion, Lieutenant General Harris became both the first African-American woman to hold the rank of lieutenant general in the Air Force and the highest ranking African-American woman in the history of the Air Force. General Harris served as the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff and Director, Air Staff, from August 2016-November 2017 and as the Inspector General of the Air Force from November 2017 until her retirement on March 1, 2019.

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 firefighting, 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 Sprayv 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.

