



“THE FIRST - TRAILBLAIZING A TRADITION FOR GENERATIONS OF AVIATORS”

United States Air Force Reserve
by Technical Sergeant Kat Justen, 2021

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Coming from a family with a rich history of military service, Colonel Kathleen Rambo Cosand was first inspired to become a pilot watching the launch of astronaut John Glenn into space. In 1976, the Air Force opened pilot training to women. Of the initial 20 billets offered, she received the sole Reserve billet.

Upon graduation as the first Reserve woman selected for undergraduate pilot training, Col Cosand went on to fly the C-141A and C-141B Starlifter an unprecedented 6,543 hours in her 30-year career. Retiring in 2006 for service in the Air Force Reserve, she attained many notable firsts throughout her career. Col Cosand was the first female Reservist to serve as an aircraft commander, the first to receive medical clearance to fly while pregnant and the first to earn an air medal (May 1978). During the mid-1990s she transitioned to commercial aviation flying 757s and 767s for TWA and American Airlines until retiring in 2020.

Today, the Cosand family is a proud family of aviators. Col Cosand's husband retired as a colonel after 24 years as an active duty pilot. Her two children also became pilots with successful Air Force and commercial aviation careers. Col Cosand remains active in flying organizations such as Woman in Aviation International and received selection into the Woman in Aviation Hall of Fame. Col Cosand has provided an inspiring legacy of leadership and continues to inspire and mentor aspiring aviators in and out of the Air Force Reserve.

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 HAVE RECENTLY SERVED 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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