

## **CAFR FY 2025 Oral Statement**

Chairman Calvert, Ranking Member McCollum, and distinguished members of the sub-committee, on behalf of the 69,600 men and women of the Air Force Reserve, it is an honor for me to be here today with my Senior Enlisted Advisor, CMSgt Israel Nuñez. As a commander, I am continually amazed at the accomplishments of our Reserve Airmen, as they meet every challenge they are given on behalf of our nation.

The Air Force Reserve provides the Nation with operational capability, strategic depth and surge capacity across every Air Force core mission set, both overseas and here at home. As a largely part-time component, we provide a Ready Now, accessible force, that is both mission-effective and cost-efficient. As our near-peer threat increases, we are committed to the Secretary of the Air Force's Operational Imperatives and the re-optimization effort within the Department of the Air Force.

Over the past two years, the Air Force Reserve has proven to be a Ready Now force through our ability to rapidly surge and provide experienced Reserve Airmen to Combatant Commands and the Joint Force. Since October 7th, Air Force Reserve personnel and aircraft have mobilized to fill critical airlift and aerial refueling missions in support of U.S. Central Command and U.S. Transportation Command,

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and some with only 72 hours' notice. So far in FY 2024, Reserve Airmen have accomplished over 68,000 man-days supporting Levant Operations, filling critical requirements amidst continued 24/7 operations. Reservists provided experienced support to our NATO Allies and European partners performing everything from intelligence analysis and cyber security; to airlift and air superiority missions; to aircraft maintenance and force protection. The U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force would not be able to support Levant operations without Reserve Airmen.

To optimize our performance as part of the Total Force, the Air Force Reserve must Transform for the Future. That transformation requires the Air Force Reserve be proportionally modernized and concurrently fielded with the Regular Component. Maintaining equipment parity with the Regular Component ensures our ability to match pacing threats. Legacy aircraft divestment without recapitalization and delayed modernization adds substantial risk to sustaining combat-credible air superiority and strategic surge capacity in the future.

We are grateful to Congress for the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Appropriation. NGREA enables us to modernize, sustain our capability and replace

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obsolete equipment when recapitalization by the Active Component is not feasible. During the past year, NGREA funding enabled installation of the most advanced radars, secure communications equipment and self-protection systems, all designed to make our aircraft more lethal and more survivable in a contested environment.

Our most important weapons system is our Airmen. We are focused on ensuring that Reserve Airmen receive the support they need through initiatives like ARC Athena. This program is a proactive effort by the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard to increase readiness for female Airmen and their families. Two of their most significant lines of effort focus on providing accessible and affordable childcare for our members as well as and making healthcare more accessible for family members with special needs through the Exceptional Family Member Program.

Over the past seven decades, the Air Force Reserve has provided combat-proven readiness. We are confident the Air Force Reserve will remain prepared to defend our great nation, now and in the future. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, and for your continued support of the Air Force Reserve, our Citizen Airmen, and their families. I look forward to answering your questions.

**Commented [BRDLCUAHA1]:** AESA radars, 3D Audio, Link 16 (F-16s)  
Anti-jam GPS (A-10s)  
Digital Warning Receivers (C-130s)  
RTIC Tactical Data Link, LAIRCM (KC-135)