

United States Air Force



Testimony

Before the House Armed Services
Military Personnel Subcommittee

Reserve Component Duty Status Reform Hearing

Statement of
Lieutenant General Richard W. Scobee
Chief of Air Force Reserve

March 27, 2019



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

LIEUTENANT GENERAL RICHARD W. SCOBEE

Lt. Gen. Richard W. Scobee is the Chief of Air Force Reserve, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., and Commander, Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. As Chief of Air Force Reserve, he serves as principal adviser on reserve matters to the Secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force Chief of Staff. As Commander of Air Force Reserve Command, he has full responsibility for the supervision of all U.S. Air Force Reserve units around the world.

General Scobee was commissioned in 1986 as a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. He earned his pilot wings as a distinguished graduate of Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot training in 1987. He has served as an F-16 pilot, instructor pilot and flight examiner both domestically and overseas in Germany, South Korea and Egypt. The general has commanded a fighter squadron, operations group, two fighter wings and a numbered airforce. Additionally, he deployed as Commander of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group, Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq, in 2008.



Prior to his current assignment, General Scobee, as the Deputy Commander, Air Force Reserve Command, was responsible for the daily operations of the command, consisting of approximately 70,000 Citizen Airmen and more than 300 aircraft among three numbered air forces, 33 flying wings, 10 flying groups and one space wing. He is a command pilot with more than 3,800 flying hours in the F-16, including 248 combat hours.

EDUCATION

1986 Bachelor of Science, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Co.
1995 Squadron Officer School, by correspondence
1997 Master of Business Administration, University of South Carolina
2000 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
2005 Air War College, by correspondence
2006 U.S. Air Force Accident/Safety Board President Course, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico
2010 Joint Forces Reserve Officers Orientation Course, Joint Forces Command, Norfolk, Va.

2010 Leadership Course, Center for Creative Learning, Greensboro, N.C.
2011 Advanced Joint Professional Military Education, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.
2014 Dual Status Title 10/32 Joint Task Force Commander Course, Northern Command, Peterson AFB, Colorado
2017 Senior Executive in National and International Security, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, Ma.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 1986 - July 1987, student, Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot training, Sheppard AFB, Texas
2. August 1987 - October 1987, student, fighter lead-in training, Holloman AFB, New Mexico
3. November 1987 - August 1988, student, F-16 Replacement Training Unit, MacDill AFB, Florida
4. August 1988 - November 1991, F-16 pilot, 526th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Ramstein Air Base, Germany
5. November 1991 - February 1993, operation location commander and air liaison officer, 1st Armored . Division, Baumholder, Germany
6. March 1993 - May 1997, F-16 instructor pilot, 19th and 78th Fighter squadrons, Shaw AFB, South Carolina
7. May 1997 - May 1998, F-16 instructor pilot, 80th Fighter Squadron, Kunsan Air Base, South Korea
8. May 1998 - August 2000, assistant Director of Operations and F-16 instructor pilot, 21st Fighter Squadron, Luke AFB, Arizona
9. August 2000 - April 2005, assistant Director of Operations and F-16 instructor pilot, 301st Fighter Squadron, Luke AFB, Arizona
10. April 2005 - July 2006, Commander, 301st Fighter Squadron, Luke AFB, Arizona
11. July 2006 - June 2007, Commander, 944th Operations Group, Luke AFB, Arizona
12. July 2007 - April 2009, Commander, 944th Fighter Wing, Luke AFB, Ariz. (April 2008 - November 2008, Commander, 506th Air Expeditionary Group, Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq)
13. April 2009 - October 2010, Commander, 301st Fighter Wing, Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas
14. October 2010 - October 2013, Deputy Director of Operations, Headquarters North American Aerospace Defense Command, Peterson AFB, Colorado
15. October 2013 - October 2014, Director, Air Force Reserve Plans, Programs and Requirements, Headquarters Air Force, Washington D.C.
16. October 2014 - May 2017, Commander, Tenth Air Force, NAS Fort Worth JRB, Texas
17. May 2017 – September 2018, Deputy Commander, Air Force Reserve Command, Robins AFB, Georgia
18. September 2018 – Present, Chief of Air Force Reserve, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., and Commander of Air Force Reserve Command, Robins AFB, Warner Robins, Georgia

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

October 2010 - October 2013, Deputy Director of Operations, Headquarters North American Aerospace Defense Command, Peterson AFB, Colo. as a brigadier general

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: command pilot

Flight hours: more than 3,800, including 248 combat hours

Aircraft flown: F-16

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Distinguished Service Medal Defense

Superior Service Medal Legion of

Merit with oak leaf cluster

Bronze Star Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with oak leaf cluster

Aerial Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster

Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster

Army Achievement Medal

Joint Meritorious Unit Award

Meritorious Unit Award

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with silver oak leaf cluster

Combat Readiness Medal
National Defense Service Medal with bronze star
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
Southwest Asia Service Medal with bronze star
Iraq Campaign Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Korea Defense Service Medal
Humanitarian Service Medal
Air Force Overseas Ribbon - Short with oak leaf cluster
Air Force Overseas Ribbon - Long with oak leaf cluster
Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border
Air Force Longevity Service Award with three oak leaf clusters
Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device
Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with bronze star
Air Force Training Ribbon

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 28, 1986
First Lieutenant May 28, 1988
Captain May 28, 1990
Major Feb. 1, 1998
Lieutenant Colonel Sept. 12, 2002
Colonel Aug. 9, 2006
Brigadier General Dec. 22, 2010
Major General March 26, 2015
Lieutenant General September 7, 2018

(Current as of Sep 2018)

Duty Status Reform

The Air Force is a Total Force.

The Air Force Reserve is a critical component of this Total Force and a vital part of our national defense. Our 70,000 Citizen Airmen are operationally integrated with their Active Component counterparts. We fly as one, train as one, and fight as one.

The Air Force Reserve provides cost effective strategic depth and rapid surge capability, supplying the manpower and capabilities needed to fill combatant commander requirements and enabling the Air Force to quickly react to unforeseen events, such as natural disasters and contingencies. We also provide daily operational support to the joint force, and we will be called upon to supply the manpower required for the high-end fight.

The re-emergence of great power competition necessitates that we rapidly restore our readiness and modernize our force. We must be able to engage in peer and near-peer conflict in the future operating environment. In any future conflict, the Air Force will be at the forefront. Therefore, we must ensure we have the right force mix and the necessary capabilities to defeat any adversary, and we must optimize our ability to support the joint force.

To align our efforts with National Defense Strategy objectives the Air Force Reserve is focused on Prioritizing Strategic Depth and Accelerating Readiness, Developing Resilient Leaders, and Reforming the Organization. These priorities are intended to ensure we are combat ready, optimize our internal operations, and ensure we provide the highest levels of support to our Airmen and their families.

The Department of Defense's (DoD) Duty Status Reform efforts align with our strategic priorities and allow us to better support our Airmen. Therefore, the Air Force Reserve is actively involved with and fully supports this effort. Duty Status Reform will enhance our readiness, enable further reforms within our organization, and ultimately-improve the quality of life for our Reserve Citizen Airmen and their families.

Reserve Citizen Airmen provide daily support to joint force operations around the globe, and our members deserve pay and benefits which are in line with their contributions to our national defense. The current pay and benefit structure creates the potential for a disparity in entitlements between Reservists who are performing similar duties. The proposal that the Administration is working on will be able to better align pay and benefits across duty categories. This will ensure parity between the duty a member performs and the entitlement that member receives. Furthermore, the proposed changes would give

Reservists a clear understanding of their pay and benefits and help us ensure our members receive the correct entitlements while in status.

The Duty Status Reform proposal also intends to eliminate the disruption in pay and benefits when a Reserve member transitions between duty authorities. Reserve Citizen Airmen change duty statuses frequently, based on the training or operational requirements, and often switch directly from one duty status to another. The current, complicated duty authorities make it difficult to determine the correct pay and benefits for members who change status during a continuous period of service. This can result in missed entitlements. Streamlining duty statuses would enable the Air Force Reserve to accurately calculate and administer all pay and benefits for members, ensuring no entitlements are missed when a member transitions between duty statuses.

Finally, the proposed changes are intended to simplify the rules and procedures associated with, mobilizations, volunteerism, and Reserve support to operational missions. The complexities which exist under the current construction will be replaced with simple, understandable, and clear delineations of duty status. Ultimately, these changes will likely eliminate complicated and confusing rules and requirements, allowing Combatant Commanders greater access to Reserve Citizen Airmen and maximizing the Air Force Reserve's ability to support the joint force.

The Air Force Reserve understands that duty status reform is a complex undertaking, which will require the modification of more than 450 laws, updates to over 300 DoD Instructions, and changes to the Financial Management Regulations and the Joint Travel Regulations. This effort will also force modifications to some information technology systems for pay and benefits. We realize that there are a multitude of changes required for duty status reform, and as a result, will take multiple years. However, this undertaking is absolutely necessary and the long term benefits will be worth the effort.

The United States can only maintain our military advantage if we continually modernize our force. We cannot limit modernization to weapon system upgrades alone, we must also improve our internal operations and force structure. The current Reserve Duty Status construct is outdated. Many of the existing authorities were enacted prior to 1980, and eight existed prior to World War II. The proposed Duty Status Reforms should simplify both these authorities and the associated processes. This will enhance Air Force Reserve readiness, increase our flexibility, and improve our operational utilization. These changes are intended to provide equitable and consistent pay and benefits for Reserve Citizen Airmen and their families, improving our ability to support those who defend our great Nation.