



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Secretary of the Air Force
Office of Public Affairs -
Eastern Region
133 E. 58th Street, Suite 1500
New York, NY 10022-1236

Colonel Arthur C. Forster, Jr. U.S. Air Force

Colonel Arthur C. Forster, Jr. is the Director of the U.S. Air Force's Eastern Region Public Affairs Office in New York City. His office serves as a liaison with national and international news media organizations, the entertainment industry and civic and business leaders to increase public understanding of and support for the mission, operations and people of the U.S. Air Force.

Colonel Forster was born in Chicago on June 13, 1945. He graduated from Bitburg Dependent High School, Bitburg Air Base, West Germany, in 1963. He received a bachelor of arts degree in government and international relations from Florida State University in 1967. Upon graduation, he was designated a distinguished military graduate and commissioned a second lieutenant through the Air Force Officer Training Corps program.

In August 1967, Colonel Forster was assigned to Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., as the 3d Weather Wing Information Officer. His duties included supervising internal and public information programs at wing detachments located at Strategic Air Command bases worldwide. While assigned to the 3rd Weather Wing, Colonel Forster graduated from the Department of Defense Information School in 1968 and completed the Air Force Short Course in Public Communication at Boston University in 1969.

In July 1969, Colonel Forster was assigned to the 600th Photo Squadron, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. As Chief, Night Operations Photography, he directed the compilation, editing and presentation of film clips documenting air strikes by AC-130 gunships in Southeast Asia.

In August 1970, Colonel Forster was assigned to McCoy Air Force Base, Fla., as Chief, Information Division, 306th Bombardment Wing, a Strategic Air Command B-52 bomber/KC-135 tanker unit. In this capacity, he also provided public affairs counsel to the 42nd Air Division commander at McCoy.

As the result of his public affairs initiatives following the crash of a B-52 in a populated area of Orlando in March 1972, Colonel Forster later received the 1973 Aviation/Space Writers' Association Public Information Officer Award. In November 1972, he was presented the key to the city and named an honorary citizen of Orlando by Mayor Carl Langford.

Colonel Forster attended the University of Denver from January 1973 to April 1974 under the auspices of the Air Force Institute of Technology. He earned distinguished graduate honors while receiving a master of arts degree in mass communications.

Col. Forster/Pg 2

From April 1974 to July 1977, Colonel Forster was assigned to the Headquarters, Strategic Air Command, Directorate of Information, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. He served successively as Chief, Audio Visual Branch; media liaison officer; and Chief, Plans, Policy and Security Review Branch.

In August 1977, Colonel Forster was assigned to the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Va. Following graduation in January 1978, he was assigned to the Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Public Affairs, Washington D.C. He served successively as action officer, Deputy Chief and Chief of the Support Forces Branch, Media Relations Division, and later as assistant to the Director of Public Affairs for the M-X missile and B-1B bomber.

In November 1981, Colonel Forster moved to Barksdale Air Force Base, La., as Director of Public Affairs for Strategic Air Command's Eighth Air Force.

From June 1985 to July 1987, Colonel Forster served as Director of Public Affairs, Air Force Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. In this position, he was also responsible for providing public affairs support to the North American Aerospace Defense Command and the United States Space Command, co-located at Peterson.

From July 1987 to June 1988, Colonel Forster was a student at the Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., serving as President of the Class of 1988.

Returning to the Pentagon in June 1988, Colonel Forster became the Assistant Chief, then Chief of the Operations Division in the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Public Affairs. His division served as a liaison with national and international news media organizations providing information about Air Force people, programs and operations -- including Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

In June of 1991, Colonel Forster became Chief, Public Affairs for the U.S. On-Site Inspection Agency at Dulles International Airport, Washington D.C. This joint-service Department of Defense agency is responsible for executing the inspection, monitoring and escort requirements of U.S. international arms control treaties and agreements.

Colonel Forster's military decorations and awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

He assumed his current position in August of 1994.

Colonel Forster and his wife, Janet, reside at Fort Totten, N.Y. They have two sons: Christopher and Robert.