

BIOGRAPHY
Colonel Arthur C. Forster, Jr.
U.S. Air Force (Retired)



Art Forster served more than 48 years as an Air Force, industry and civil service public affairs professional. He retired in 2015 as Director of Public and Congressional Affairs for the U.S. Army Contracting Command (ACC) at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, AL. The son of a career Air Force NCO, Art graduated from high school at Bitburg Air Base, Germany in 1963 and is a 1967 Air Force ROTC distinguished military graduate of Florida State University. He later earned a master's degree from the University of Denver.

Prior to joining ACC in 2010, Art was the Chief Communications Officer for the Federal Election Commission in Washington D.C. From 2003 to 2007, he served as the Director of Congressional and Public Affairs for the Defense Contract Management Agency in Alexandria, VA. He came to DCMA from Hill and Knowlton, an international public relations firm in New York City, where he was a senior vice president in their Corporate and Financial Group.

Before joining Hill and Knowlton in 1996, he held numerous positions of increasing responsibility as a career public affairs officer in the U.S. Air Force. In his last active-duty assignment, Colonel Forster was the Director of the Air Force Eastern Region Public Affairs Office in New York City.

During the Gulf War in 1991, he served as Air Force spokesman and media relations chief in the Pentagon. Art graduated from the Air War College at Maxwell AFB, AL in 1988 as president of his class. In 1986, as Director of Public Affairs for the North American Aerospace Defense Command, U.S. Space Command and Air Force Space Command in Colorado Springs, he served as spokesman for Defense Department recovery efforts following the loss of the space shuttle, *Challenger*. Early in his career, he served two tours of duty in the Republic of Vietnam.

Colonel Forster's military decorations and civilian awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (2), Bronze Star, Secretary of Defense Award of Excellence and the Defense Contract Management Agency Distinguished Civilian Service Award. He also received the Department of the Army Civilian of the Year Award from the Redstone – Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army.

As the result of his public affairs actions following the crash of a B-52 bomber in Orlando, FL in 1972, he received the Aviation/Space Writers' Public Affairs Officer of the Year Award. He was also named an honorary citizen and received the key to the city from the Orlando mayor.

Art and his wife, Janet, have two sons and five granddaughters. Army Colonel (Dr.) Chris Forster serves as Chief of Rheumatology at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. Rob, a former Army officer, is an IT executive in Dallas, TX. Janet's father and Art's brother were also Air Force officers.

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