

AWACS

MISSION



At any given moment there is an E-3 Sentry patrolling above Earth. The E-3 Sentry is an airborne warning and control system, or AWACS, aircraft with integrated command and control battle management, surveillance, target detection, and tracking capabilities. The aircraft provides an accurate, real-time picture of the battlespace to the Joint Air Operations Center.



AWACS provides situational awareness of friendly, neutral and hostile activity, command and control of an area of responsibility, battle management of theater forces, all-altitude and all-weather surveillance of the battle space, and early warning of enemy actions during joint, allied, and coalition operations.

The sophisticated radar system mounted on the top of the E-3 Sentry permits surveillance from the Earth's surface up into the stratosphere, over land or water. The radar has a range of more than 250 miles (375.5 kilometers). The radar combined with an identification friend or foe subsystem can look down to detect, identify and track enemy and friendly low-flying aircraft by eliminating ground clutter returns that confuse other radar systems. The data collection capability of the E-3 radar and computer subsystems allowed an entire air war to be recorded for the first time in the history of aerial warfare. The flight crew of four is supplemented by 13-19 specialists depending on the mission.

The majority of the E-3 Sentry aircraft are at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma. Members of the Air Force Reserve are merged into the 513th Air Control Group at Tinker. Reservists work as pilots, in operational support and in maintenance of the E-3 Sentry.

Benefits

In the Air Force Reserve, you are entitled to a wide range of benefits, similar to those on Active Duty.

- Earn a paycheck – The pay is competitive for part-time and some full-time jobs.
- Get an education – The Air Force Reserve encourages continuing education and offers several programs – Non-contributory Montgomery G.I. Bill, Tuition Assistance, free credits through the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF), and specialized training that can lead to certifications and licenses. There can also be bonuses and incentives for those going into critically needed areas.
- Low-cost health care plan – This new program applies to both the Reservist and immediate family and can significantly reduce the cost of medical care.
- Retirement plan – Military retirement programs are very generous. If you have previously served, your time counts toward your retirement in the Air Force Reserve.
- Commissary and BX Privileges – Military bases offer discounted and tax-free supermarket and department store shopping plus low-cost recreational vehicle rentals.
- Live and serve at home – Serve where you live and transfer to a new location only at your request.
- Maintain rank – If you have previously served in the Air Force or any other branch of the military, chances are you will retain your rank when you join the Air Force Reserve.
- Do the extraordinary – This is an opportunity to meet American heroes accomplishing amazing feats and to become one with them.

The Air Force Reserve is an integral part of the United States Air Force, performing approximately 20 percent of the work. Members of the Air Force Reserve can live and serve in their local communities. Although there are full-time opportunities, those in the Air Force Reserve can continue their full-time civilian careers. This is a great way to serve your country and still live at home with your family.



AIR FORCE RESERVE

To learn more, call 800-257-1212 or log on to AFReserve.com