

# MISSION: Tanker (Inflight Refueling)

The range of military aircraft is greatly increased with the advent of aerial refueling. This technique made it possible for aircraft to fly around restricted airspace to accomplish a mission, be that military or humanitarian, in the case of delivering relief supplies to remote parts of Earth.



In some cases, refueling is the only way of providing emergency care. For example, Pave Hawk helicopters carrying Pararescuemen have been able to reach those at sea in medical need in a timely fashion because of air-to-air refueling capabilities.

The two tankers used by the Air Force Reserve are the KC-135 and the KC-10. During normal operations, a tanker will fly a pre-determined pattern and aircraft in need will know exactly where to find the tankers, which are actually functioning as flying filling stations.

The crews of these tankers consist of a pilot, co-pilot and a boom operator. The boom operator is responsible for maneuvering the fuel line from the tanker into the awaiting aircraft, be they giant C-5 Galaxies, or sleek F-22 Raptor fighter jets. The boom operator is also responsible for safety instruction of any passengers, who can be accommodated in these aircraft.

## 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.

## Qualifications

If you have never served in the military and wish to join the Air Force Reserve, you must:

- Be 17 to 34 years old;
- Be in good health;
- Be of strong character.



**AIR FORCE RESERVE**

To learn more, call 800-257-1212 or log on to [AFReserve.com](http://AFReserve.com)