



# BIOGRAPHY

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

**Secretary of the Air Force  
Office of Public Affairs**

Washington, D.C. 20330-1690

## **MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM A. COHEN**

Major General William A. Cohen is mobilization assistant to the commander, Air Education and Training Command (AETC), Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. He is the senior reservist and senior officer in the command advising on Reserve matters. He is responsible for providing leadership to the AETC Reserve program at locations around the country including the development and direction of Reserve initiatives, procurement and training of Reserve personnel in support of the command's active duty force, and the productive and efficient utilization of Air Force reservists assigned to the command in peacetime, and their readiness for mobilization in time of war or national emergency.

The general entered the Air Force in 1959 as a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and was previously a distinguished graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Wentworth Military Academy, Lexington, Mo. He is a master navigator and has flown more than 3,500 hours in bombardment, attack and transport aircraft. He flew 174 combat missions in special operations, attack aircraft in Vietnam and additional combat missions in the Middle East during the Yom Kippur War as a member of the Israeli Air Force.



### **EDUCATION:**

- 1959 Bachelor's degree, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
- 1967 Master's degree in research and development management, University of Chicago
- 1978 Master's degree in management, Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, Calif.
- 1979 Doctorate in executive management, Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, Calif.
- 1989 Distinguished graduate, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. July 1955 - June 1959, cadet, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
2. July 1959 - May 1960, student, navigator training, James T. Connally Air Force Base, Texas
3. June 1960 - November 1960, student, advanced navigator-radar bombing, Mather Air Force Base, Calif.
4. December 1960 - January 1961, student, B-52 combat crew training, Castle Air Force Base, Calif.
5. January 1961 - April 1961, student, B-52 combat crew training, Walker Air Force Base, N.M.
6. May 1961, student, survival training, Stead Air Force Base, Nev.
7. May 1961 - March 1965, B-52E navigator, navigator-bombardier, instructor, lead crew, 26th Bomb Squadron, Altus Air Force Base, Okla.
8. March 1965 - July 1966, B-52E navigator standardization evaluator and flight examiner, standardization division, 11th Strategic Aerospace Wing, Altus Air Force Base, Okla.
9. July 1966 - September 1967, student, Air Force Institute of Technology, University of Chicago, Ill.
10. October 1967 - December 1968, student, A-26 combat crew training, England Air Force Base, La.
11. January 1968 - student, jungle survival training, Clark Air Force Base, Phillipine Islands
12. January 1968 - January 1969, A-26 navigator, 609th Air Commando Squadron, Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Thai Air Force Base, Thailand
13. January 1969 - June 1970, program manager, Life Support Program Office, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

14. June 1970 - October 1978, decommissioned
15. October 1978 - November 1978, student, C-141 crew training, Altus Air Force Base, Okla.
16. November 1978 - September 1979, C-141 navigator, 445th Military Airlift Wing, Norton Air Force Base, Calif.
17. September 1979 - October 1984, staff development engineering manager, Defense Support Systems Program Office, Los Angeles Air Force Station, Calif.
18. November 1984 - June 1986, staff developmental engineer, Commander's Action Group, Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif.
19. June 1986 - June 1988, individual mobilization augmentee to the deputy commander for satellite systems, Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif.
20. June 1988 - June 1989, student, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.
21. June 1989 - January 1990, individual mobilization augmentee to the deputy commander for communications, operations support and control systems, Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif.
22. January 1990 - April 1991, individual mobilization augmentee to the commander, Phillips Laboratory, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.
23. April 1991 - June 1992, mobilization assistant to the deputy chief of staff, engineering and technical management, Air Force Systems Command, Andrews Air Force Base, Md.
24. June 1992 - September 1992, mobilization assistant to the deputy chief of staff for engineering and technical management, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio
25. September 1992 - July 1994, mobilization assistant to the commander, Space and Missile Systems Center, Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif.
26. July 1994 - present, mobilization assistant to the commander, Air Education and Training Command, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas

#### **FLIGHT INFORMATION:**

Rating: Master navigator

Flight hours: More than 3,500

Aircraft flown: B-52, A-26, A-1, F-100, C-141, C-97 and T-29

Navigator wings from: U.S. and Israel

#### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:**

Legion of Merit

Distinguished Flying Cross with three oak leaf clusters

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with 11 oak leaf clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Force Achievement Medal

Vietnam Service Medal with four service stars

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

and service star

#### **OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:**

Author of 33 books and more than 80 articles published in 12 languages

Institute director, former department chairman, full professor, California State University, Los Angeles

Past president, West Point Society of Los Angeles

Biography in Who's Who in America

#### **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:**

Second Lieutenant Jun 3, 1959

First Lieutenant Dec 3, 1960

Captain Dec 3, 1963

Major (Spot) Jun 7, 1965

Captain Oct 17, 1978

Major Apr 10, 1981

Lieutenant Colonel Sep 30, 1985

Colonel Aug 1, 1989

Brigadier General Aug 12, 1992

Major General Feb 9, 1994

(Current as of February 1997)