

5-18-1955

# Air Force Reserve Training Program

Strom Thurmond

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## Recommended Citation

Thurmond, Strom, "Air Force Reserve Training Program" (1955). *Strom Thurmond Collection, Mss100*. 1264.  
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STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON AIR FORCE RESERVE  
TRAINING PROGRAM, MAY 18, 1955

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On Wednesday, May 18th, I had the pleasure of meeting in my Washington office with Captain Robert R. George and Lieutenants Marion B. Neeley and L. G. Funderburk of the Air Force Reserve Squadron in Columbia, South Carolina.

As national president of the Reserve Officers Association and a United States Senator, I asked these gentlemen to convey a personal message to every Air Force reservist in South Carolina, urging active participation in the training program offered through assignment to one of the squadrons or flights of the 9180th Air Reserve Group.

In the last war we had our vast oceans to protect us while we prepared to meet an emergency situation. Today, in this age of guided missiles and jet planes that can fly faster than the sound of speed, time is of the essence, and we can no longer rely on our oceans to afford us the necessary time to prepare to defend our country against attack. In order to meet the needs of our national defense program we must build up a strong reserve force that is properly trained and ready to answer the call to duty.

I urge each air reservist in South Carolina to actively participate in the specialized and general training programs offered by the Columbia Air Reserve Center. By so doing you will be helping to insure an adequate defense program so that we will be prepared to meet any national emergency at any time and any place.

Strom Thurmond

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