

COLONEL ROOSEVELT J. LEWIS, JR., USAF (RET)

Aviator; Businessman; Chemist; Logistician; Colonel Roosevelt J. Lewis, Jr., is the former Owner of Air Tuskegee and Manager of Moton Field, the original aviation home of the Tuskegee Airmen, the first Black military pilots of WWII fame. For 31 years, he has been a Tuskegee Airmen researcher, noted historian and spokesperson at educational institutions and military installations; espousing the contributions and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. He lectures extensively regarding Leadership, Management and the first-hand lessons taught him by his numerous Tuskegee Airmen mentors; his passion is to pass on those lessons to our youth.

As a 16 year-old Valedictorian and scholarship winner at Heart of Mary HS, Mobile, AL to University degrees in Chemistry, Transportation and Business Management; to a stellar 26.5 year US Air Force career, Colonel Lewis has proven himself an example of excellence. At Tuskegee, like First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, he was taken for a first flight by the legendary "Father of Black Aviation", C. Alfred "Chief" Anderson. His horizons were broadened and he learned important lessons in preparation, perseverance and self-reliance. An elected Student Leader, Team Captain and Conference Tennis Champion, he was commissioned in the USAF as a Distinguished Military Graduate in AFROTC and was second in his class to solo jets in flight training, Williams AFB, AZ.

Lewis served at the highest levels of the Department of Defense in five Pentagon jobs, including OSD, and in every mode of military transportation. A Commander on four occasions, his units were named Best in the Command each time; his unit in the Philippines won "Best In Air Force and Best In DOD" Transportation Awards. Lewis' personal awards include: Tactical Air Command and Air Force Worldwide Transportation Officer of the Year; HQ TAC Manager of the Year; and "Boss of the Year" in the Pacific; unprecedented.

Named a Presidential Scholar by the University of Alabama, after completing Masters degrees in Transportation and Business Management, Lewis was sponsored to the Congress as an Intern on the Public Works & Transportation Committee, US House of Representatives. He worked Airline Deregulation, Federal Aviation Administration, and Coal Slurry Pipeline issues. Lewis is an honor graduate of six DOD Leadership, Transportation, Logistics and Management programs.

Colonel Lewis served as Office Manager and Executive Officer, HQ USAF/Logistics & Engineering. The office was responsible for 61% of USAF personnel and a \$34.8 Billion budget. He was responsible for 509 senior policy and staff officer inputs to HQ USAF/LE; a three star billet. Previously, he bought the Air Force vehicle fleet where he was responsible for a \$3.4Billion budget and Congressional justification. He served on the original HQUSAF CESMET Team and as an OSD and Air Force Staff Transportation Officer. He is a former DCS Air Transportation in the Pacific and has traveled to 97 military bases.

Lewis is an experienced 6,600+ hour aviator who has soloed Cubs to Jets, including over 760 hours is aerobatic time. An aircraft owner since returning from Southeast Asia in 1970, he ran the Tuskegee airport Fixed Base Operation for 19 years. The Governor of Alabama appointed him to the Alabama Aeronautics Commission, responsible for state aviation policy. He is a co-founder and Past-President of

the Aviation Council of Alabama; the "Voice of Aviation in Alabama." He has flown 3000+ individuals on their first aircraft ride; placed the first two Blacks in the history of the Alabama Air National Guard; facilitated 56 into military jet training seats; and 357 students obtained FAA Pilot Certificates at Air Tuskegee. Lewis is credited by former Alabama Congressman/Governor Bob Riley for teaching him about the Tuskegee Airmen and being the catalyst for the \$29.1 Million Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site at Moton Field. Three Governors appointed Lewis to the Board of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, and he is a former Chair of the "Space Camp" Committee for the youth of the nation. He also serves on the American Village Board, Montevallo.

Colonel Lewis is the President of the Tuskegee Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. and serves as an Adjunct Professor of History, Leadership and Management-Air University, Maxwell AFB, Alabama. He also serves as one of the Directors of the Raven Flight Foundation, a nonprofit Missouri Corporation that educates, trains and exposes the next generation of pilots, focusing on those from a historically-disadvantaged background.

Military decorations include: the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star for Southeast Asia duties, and 13 others. Security clearances: Secret/ Top Secret/SCI. He is married to the former Carolyn D. Adams of Mobile, AL and they have a 29 year old daughter, Melissa Michelle Lewis, PhD; University of Maryland.