



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND**

15 June 2020

Colonel Christopher K. Lacouture
Commander
913th Airlift Group
262 Cannon Drive
Little Rock AFB, AR 72099

Airmen of the 913th Airlift Group,

It is truly an honor to be selected as the Commander of the 913th Airlift Group. I know a letter is not the best introduction to a new Commander, but COVID-19 and the part-time nature of the Reserve makes it necessary. I look forward to meeting all of you in the next few months. I plan to have an Assumption of Command ceremony during the August UTA as Coronavirus related restrictions allow. I have high hopes that the August UTA will be conducted in-person for the majority of our members. Expect restrictions to the size of gatherings and facilities on base. As important as it is to return to normal, we must comply with protective measures and prevent the spread of Coronavirus, preserve readiness, and safeguard our Airmen and families.

I did not grow up in the combat airlift world. For the last twenty years, I flew the HH-60G PaveHawk. I spent over fifteen years on active duty and the last eight in the Reserve. My wife, Lindsey, daughter, Zoe, and I are excited to start a new chapter. We are a Reserve family. Lindsey is a TR and has been in the Reserve for five years and previously spent over seven years on active duty. The more we discover about the 913th and Little Rock, the more we like it. We are lucky to have this opportunity and are excited to become members of Team Little Rock.

I will provide comprehensive guidance in the coming weeks. In the fall, Group leadership and I will refine the 913th Airlift Group's priorities. My initial guidance is: **restore and sustain readiness**. 2021 will be a deployment year for much of the Group. We all will be ready to deploy and meet the Joint Force's needs. COVID-19 caused us to have some readiness deficits. Nothing was going to stop that. Our job is to be flexible and clever as we work to recover our readiness levels and be ready to mobilize.

Lastly, I owe Colonel Collister and Lt Col Granderson my sincere thanks for leading the 913th for the last eleven months. They both stepped up and did an amazing job under difficult circumstances. This is a special unit. There is a level of pride and sense of ownership here that other units do not have. Together, we will successfully execute the mission and showcase the 913th Airlift Group to 22 AF and all of AFRC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CKL", is positioned above the typed name.

CHRISTOPHER K. LACOUTURE, Colonel, USAF
Commander