



# BIOGRAPHY

## A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

Tuskegee Airmen Inc. Public Relations, P.O. Box 830060  
Tuskegee, AL 36083

### Mr. Floyd Carter, Sr.



Mr. Carter was born in 1923 in his hometown of Yorktown, Virginia. His career began in 1944 after enlisting in the Aviation Cadet Program and graduating as a Bombardier and Navigator. Upon graduation, he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1944 and became a [Tuskegee Airman](#) — the first [all-Black unit](#) of what became the U.S. Air Force. He was transferred to Tuskegee, Alabama to enroll in the first class of Black Student Officer Pilots completing his Triple Rating and earning his Pilot's Wings in 1945. WWII ended before 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Carter could see any action as a Bombardier/Navigator Pilot. He was honorably discharged and joined the Air Force Reserve in 1947.

In September 1947, Carter joined the newly formed United States Air Force and led the first squadron of supply-laden cargo planes into West Berlin transporting food and medicine for the Berlin Airlift. At the height of the Cold War, Captain Carter and his squadron braved stressful conditions while navigating a narrow neutral air space as Russian MiG aircraft tried to break the squadron's composure. He kept his men calm under pressure and his squadron successfully reached their destination without any casualties. While serving in the USAF Reserves, Carter aided in the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War in which he transported troops and supplies during the Tet Offensive from Thailand and Japan.

During North Vietnam's Tet Offensive in 1968, Major Carter flew U.S. troops and supplies into South Vietnam. He was also placed into active/standby duty for the Santo Domingo Uprising and Cuban Missile Crisis. In 1971, Lieutenant Colonel Carter became the first Black Officer to command a C-141 four engine, heavy lift transport squadron composed of White Officers. He served as Commander of the 732nd Military Airlift Squadron at McGuire AFB, New Jersey until his military retirement in 1974.

Twenty-one years prior to his military retirement, and while still in the AF Reserves, Captain Carter joined the New York Police Department (NYPD) in 1953 and earned his Detective's Gold Shield in 1956. He worked in the NYPD for 27-years and earned his NYPD Detective 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Shield. Before retiring in 1980, he worked as a bodyguard for visiting heads of state.

Air Force Lt Col Carter earned many commendations for his service in the armed forces including the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, the Medal for Humane Action for his involvement in the Berlin Airlift and a proclamation presented to him by former Congressman Charles Rangel for his remarkable achievements in 2005. On March 29, 2007, Mr. Carter was among over 300 of the surviving Tuskegee Airmen who were collectively awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest Civilian Award, by former U.S. President George W. Bush. The approximately 16,000 to 19,000 Tuskegee Experiment/Experience participants, living and deceased, were collectively awarded the CGM during this one-time ceremony held inside of the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. All living Tuskegee Airmen received a replica for their service and for breaking the color barrier in the Pilot ranks. In January 2009, the Tuskegee Airmen were invited to attend President Barack Obama's inauguration.

For more information about Mr. Carter and the Tuskegee Airmen, please visit the National TAI Website at [www.TuskegeeAirmen.org](http://www.TuskegeeAirmen.org).

