# Black General Heads Air Force Finance

MAJ. GEN. LUCIUS THEUS

**Now second-highest ranking AF black officer in active duty**

Major General Lucius Theus, who took command of the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center in Denver, Colorado, is the third black officer promoted to general officer rank in the history of the Air Force and is now the second-highest ranking black officer on active duty in that service.

In mid-December, he was nominated by President Gerald Ford to be promoted to the grade of temporary major general from his rank as brigadier general. Inadvertently, Gen. Theus was not listed among the ranking military officers pictured in the November DAWN.

General Theus is director of Accounting and Finance, Office of the Comptroller of the Air Force and commander, Air Force Accounting and Finance Center.

In this position, he is responsible for operation of the worldwide Air Force accounting and finance network. The Air Force Accounting and Finance Center provides centralized accounting for all Air Force appropriated funds; pay of all Air Force military personnel, active Reserve and retired; and other selected accounting and disbursing services which can be most effectively performed centrally.

General Theus was born in Madison County, Tenn., on Oct. 11, 1922, and graduated from Community High School in Blue Island, Ill. He has a bachelor of science degree from the University of Maryland, 1956, a master's degree in business administration from George Washington University, 1957, and is a graduate of Harvard Advanced Management Program, Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration, 1969.

During World War II, General Theus entered the Army Air Corps as a private in December, 1942. After basic training, he attended the Army Administration School at Atlanta University. For the remainder of World War II, he served as an administrative clerk, chief clerk and first sergeant of preaviation cadet and basic training squadrons at Keesler Field, Miss.

He then entered Officer Candidate School, graduating second in his class with a commission as second lieutenant in January, 1946. Following a one-year tour of duty as squadron adjutant at Tuskegee Army Air Field, Ala., General Theus went to Lockbourne Air Force Base, Ohio, as Base Statistical Control Officer.

In 1948 he attended the Statistical Control Officers School at Lowry Air Force Base, Colo. In August, 1949 he was transferred to Erding Air Depot, Germany, where he served as the analysis and presentation officer and later Commander of the Statistical Control Flight and Depot Statistical Control Officer.

General Theus was assigned in August, 1952 to the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Comptroller, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., where he was chief of the Materiel Logistics Statistics Branch.

In October, 1957, General Theus was assigned to Headquarters Central Air Materiel Forces, Europe, Chateauroux Air Base, France, as a statistical services staff officer. He was subsequently appointed Technical Statistical Advisor to the Comptroller, Headquarters Air Materiel Forces, Europe.

In January, 1959 General Theus was assigned duty as chief of Management Services Office in the Eastern Air Logistics Office, Athens, Greece. Following that assignment in August, 1960, he entered the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va. In February, 1961, he was appointed chief of Management Analysis, Headquarters Spokane Air Defense Sector, Larson Air Force Base, Wash.

In December, 1962 General Theus was assigned as base comptroller at Kingsley Field, Oreg. During that period, he enrolled in the Industrial College of the Armed Forces correspondence course and was an honor graduate in 1964. In August 1965 General Theus entered the Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., and graduated with distinction in July 1966.

His next assignment was as base comptroller of Cam Ranh Bay Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. For more than five months of this assignment, he also was Acting Deputy Base Commander of Cam Ranh Bay Air Base.

Upon his return to the United States in July, 1967, General Theus was reassigned to Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Office of the Comptroller of the Air Force, as a data automation staff officer, in the Directorate of Data Automation. He served initially as chief, Technology and Standards Branch; then chief, Plans, Policy and Technology Division; and later chief, Program Management Division.

During that assignment, General Theus also performed additional duty as chairman of the Inter-Service Task Force on Education in Race Relations, Office of the Secretary of Defense. The recommendations of the task force led to establishment of the Defense Race Relations Institute and the Department of Defense-wide education program in race relations. In 1968 he attended the Department of Defense Computer Institute.

In July, 1971 General Theus was assigned to the position of director of Management Analysis, Office of the Comptroller of the Air Force. In June, 1972 he was appointed special assistant for social actions, Directorate of Personnel Plans, deputy chief of staff, Personnel, Headquarters U.S. Air Force.

On June 10, 1974, he was appointed director of Accounting and Finance, Office of the Comptroller of the Air Force, Headquarters U.S. Air Force and commander of the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center, Denver, Colo.

His military decorations and awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Commendation Medal.

General Theus is married to the former Gladys Marie Davis of Chicago, Ill. His hometown is Robbins, Ill.

General Theus was promoted to the grade of brigadier general effective Aug. 1, 1972, with date of rank July 27, 1972.



**This Keeps You Alert**

*An inflated life preserver is used to show children an example of the kinds of equipment carried in an Air Force cargo aircraft used at Norton Air Force Base.*

# Blue Collar Jobs

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women fare better in the retail industry than in others in a report by the Council on Economic Priorities. The study made by the New York based firm found cause for caution, however. It concludes that the democratic image of the retail industry as a place where a conscientious person can rise to the top through hard work is "an image of democracy for men, white men only."

In terms of overall employment of minorities, Sears was ranked first, followed by Montgomery Ward Co., J. C. Penney, W. T. Grant and Kresge.

Brimmer, who recently resigned as the lone black member of the Federal Reserve Board, said that "Cities in the South and Southwest are the farthest behind in the integration of blacks in white collar jobs. However, only a handful of cities in the North and West are doing appreciably better than the national average."

According to Brimmer, an economist, St. Louis' leading with black professionals has a deficit of only 23 per cent. Dallas, which has the poorest record, has an 89 per cent deficit. St. Louis was also best in blue collar jobs for blacks with a surplus of 14 per cent. Once again, Dallas was the worst with a 58 per cent deficit. In this case, blue collar jobs are generally the lowest paid, so a smaller surplus indicates less discrimination.

Some blacks have expressed some concern at the "brain drain" of young black talent by industry, but others have taken the view that if the depressed people are to move ahead "We must get on the inside and see how the system works."

At the St. Louis dinner, which sold out two weeks in advance, Woods cautioned those attending that they represented the "favored few." The publisher noted that the fact that his city ranked next to the bottom in craft union employment for blacks indicated how much work remained to be done.

"There is no reason, however, for us to ignore our present gains and give recognition to those who have made it and credit to those who opened the doors," Woods said.

In the category of craft workers, St. Louis placed second from the last with a 51 per cent deficit. It was beaten out of last place by Detroit, which has a 57 per cent deficit.

A surplus reflects how many blacks hold a type of job than their representation in the general population would suggest. A deficit indicates the opposite situation.

# 'Show and Tell'

For Air Force Lt. Col. James C. Warren, talking to youngsters is a two-fold process. First, he personally gets a charge out of it. Secondly, he feels these face-to-face situations give tomorrow's leaders the opportunity to experience a minority member of American society who has obtained an active position of leadership and responsibility.

Colonel Warren first became active in these "show and tell" sessions with the knee-high set during "Black History Week" held earlier this year. Since then, he has been repeatedly invited to speak at many different public and private gatherings, especially involving young people.

Assigned to the 63rd Military Airlift Wing at Norton Air Force Base near San Bernardino, Calif., Colonel Warren has the overall responsibility to insure that all navigators assigned to the unit maintain the high degree of proficiency their jobs demand.

Since the unit delivers cargo to various locations throughout the world, his job as Chief of Standardization could be termed paramount to mission success.

One of his most recent "show and tell" engagements was at the Allisandro Elementary School in San Bernardino, California. Each pupil had the chance to see and personally talk with Colonel Warren giving them a symbol to draw hope and encouragement for their own lives.

# Historic decision

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tgomery, Ala. This ruling, inspired by Mrs. Rosa Parks, kicked off a revolutionary civil rights struggle.

Mrs. Keys-Evans says of Mrs. Parks, "I admire her greatly and I can identify with her so much." She will never forget her own experience but, she is not bitter against anyone.

I have no fears and really no hate," she says, observing that if it had not been her who played the role, it probably would have been someone else. As the black struggle continues, she realizes that "we've got to go through these things in order to bring about change."