

2013

Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Kenneth D. Merchant

Class of 1980

Kenneth Merchant is in transition following 34 years of active duty service in the U.S. Air Force. In his final assignment, he served as director of Global Reach Programs in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition at U.S. Air Force Headquarters in Washington, D.C. As the capability director, Merchant was responsible for airlift, air refueling, training and special operations programs.

Merchant was commissioned through the Air Force ROTC program at Grove City College. He has been a program manager on numerous weapon system development and production programs, most notably, Airframe Integrated Product Team Lead for the F-22 Raptor fighter program.

Merchant has served as Air Staff program element monitor for the Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile, and executive officer to the commander, Pacific Air Forces. He directed an Area Attack Systems Program Office; Contractor Logistics Support Aircraft Materiel Systems Group; and Battle Management Command, Control and Computer Systems Wing. Prior to his last assignment, he was commander, Air Armament Center and program executive officer for Weapons at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Merchant earned a number of service awards for his military achievements, such as the Distinguished Service Medal (Air Force) with Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, and Defense Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster. He has accepted a new position as F-22 REDI program manager at Lockheed Martin.



Additional degrees: Master's degree, Troy State University; Master's degree, Industrial College of the Armed Forces