



## CAPTAIN “T” BIOGRAPHY

William 'T' Thompson, is the immediate past President and CEO of the USAF Academy's Association of Graduates' (AOG) representing its 50,000 graduates. The first African American from South Carolina to attend USAFA, he excelled in several leadership positions including serving on the Cadet Wing Staff. 'T' graduated in 1973, spent a year recruiting at the Academy, before going on to serve as a decorated Air Force Instructor Pilot. He flew for 25 years with Delta Air Lines, retiring as an International Check Captain, training and evaluating Delta's pilots.

Returning to the Academy and healing a split in the graduate community, he then took the AOG to lofty heights with chapter growth from 31 to 86, and asset growth from \$35 million to almost \$60 million over a 5-year period. He was selected as one of 2015's Most Innovative Business Leaders.

He received his Juris Doctorate from UOP's McGeorge School of Law in 1982 and practiced as a tax and finance attorney. An award-winning entrepreneur, he founded the Summit Group Companies, which owned fast food franchises, including Subway Sandwiches, Dunkin Donuts and TCBY yogurt shops, an engineering services firm, a systems integration company and a real estate development firm. He has been recognized widely in the media including: the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, and Black Enterprise Magazine; NBC, CBS and PBS television networks.

The longest serving Commissioner of Aeronautics in Massachusetts' history, he served three governors in both Democratic and Republican administrations. He was on the Short List for both Air Force Secretary and FAA Administrator during the Clinton Administration. He was appointed by then Gov. John Hickenlopper to the Colorado Aeronautics Board in 2013 and was reappointed in 2016. He has also served on and chaired numerous local, state and national boards, including the 100 Black Men, the Boy Scouts of America, the Boulé, the Guardsmen, and the American Cancer Society.

Today, “T” is a high-level strategist, consultant and professional speaker, having earned the coveted CSP® (Certified Speaking Professional)™ designation, from the National Speakers Association, the organization's highest recognition. A published author, his latest book, *The Flight to Excellence: Soaring To New Heights In Business And Life* will be released in January, 2021.