

Major General Adolph P. "Ace" Hearon is inducted into the Pennsylvania Air National Guard Hall of Fame in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the United States of America and the Pennsylvania Air National Guard in a career of service spanning four decades.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1954, General Hearon served as a fighter interceptor and instructor pilot flying the F-86 and F-102 aircraft for the Air Defense Command, separating from active duty in 1959. Between 1960 and 1969, General Hearon served in the North Carolina Air National Guard, flying numerous airlift missions to Southeast Asia. During this period, he flew the T-33, F-86, C-119, C-121, and the C-124 aircraft.

Joining the Pennsylvania Air National Guard in 1972, General Hearon served with the 193rd Tactical Electronic Warfare Group, where he flew C/EC-121 Coronet Solo aircraft, and later served as Group Chief of Standardization and Evaluation. General Hearon was selected as Commander of the 193rd Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron in 1977 and was later promoted to Deputy Commander of Maintenance for the 193rd Special Operations Group (SOG). In 1985, General Hearon was appointed Commander of the 193rd Special Operations Group and remained Commander through 1987. During this time, he initiated one of the most vigorous multi-million dollar military construction programs in the Air National Guard, providing the 193rd with the nation's most modern facilities. In addition, General Hearon's foresight and leadership were directly responsible for the acquisition of Commando Solo II aircraft. By pioneering the \$80 million Volant Solo modernization program, he paved the way for the upgrade of six unit aircraft to the current Commando Solo II worldwide color television configuration. General Hearon commanded two separate, highly sensitive electronic warfare missions commonly known as Volant Solo and Comfi Levi. Under his leadership, the 193rd SOG on average deployed to ten Joint Chiefs of Staff exercises per year, as well as other contingencies while validating the Air Force's "Total Force" concept by seamlessly integrating into the active forces. Although constrained by Gramm-Rudman budget restrictions, the 193rd SOG remained the most deployed unit in the Air National Guard due to the unique nature of their mission. In 1987, with only 75 percent of unit's aircraft mission capable, General Hearon managed, even with a limited force, to complete 100 percent of all assigned missions. The 1.79 aircraft utilization rate achieved that year was the highest for any C-130E reserve component unit. During this intense operational tempo, the 193rd SOG attained an exceptional safety record of 123,000 accident free flying hours, while also achieving a 96 percent diversity recruiting goal. Under his leadership, the 193rd SOG received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for meritorious service between 1985 and 1987.

In 1988, General Hearon became the Deputy Commander, Headquarters Pennsylvania Air National Guard, until assigned as the Assistant Adjutant General in 1989. In 1990, General Hearon was selected as the Air National Guard Assistant to the Commander, Air Force Logistics Command, and was promoted to Major General in 1991. In 1992, General Hearon returned to Pennsylvania as interim commander of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and held this position until his retirement in January 1993.

General Hearon is a command pilot with more than 9,800 hours of flight time in a variety of military aircraft. His numerous military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Vietnam Service medal with two Bronze Stars, Humanitarian Service Medal, along with the numerous other awards and decorations.

The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Major General "Ace" Hearon, during a lifetime of distinguished service reflect great credit upon himself, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, warranting his induction into the Pennsylvania Air National Guard Hall of Fame.