



Sixteenth Air Force
2 Hall Boulevard Suite 201
Joint Base-Lackland Texas 78243-7072
18 May 2023

Dear Freedom Through Vigilance Association Members

Today we honor the legacy of the late Brig Gen (retired) Charles L. Bishop. A pioneer of Sixteenth Air Force history, Brig Gen Bishop joined the Air Force as an enlisted Russian linguist, and later commissioned as the Berlin Wall went up. During the Cold War, he used his computer programming skills to streamline intelligence collection for both the European and Asiatic theaters.

His leadership assignments in our precursor organizations include command tours at the 6993rd Electronic Security Squadron, the 6912th Electronic Security Group, and the Headquarters Electronic Security Command Pacific. Brig Gen Bishop also had more than 1,200 flying hours in the EC-121, EC-130, and RC-135 platforms.

There are many people in the Freedom Through Vigilance Association who have had the privilege of serving alongside Brig Gen Bishop, and I would like to extend my gratitude to those, like Bishop, who have paved the way for us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. B. Kennedy' with a stylized flourish at the end.

KEVIN B. KENNEDY
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander