LEAD SOLUTIONS

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Denny L. Richardson

Chief Master Sergeant (Ret) Denny L. Richardson is a senior executive leader, educator, and motivational speaker with more than three decades of experience leading people, shaping organizational culture, and operating at the highest levels of national defense and homeland security.

Most recently, Denny served as the Command Chief Master Sergeant for the Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) Region and First Air Force (Air Forces Northern & Air Forces Space) at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida. In this role, he was the senior enlisted advisor to the commander, responsible for matters affecting the health, morale, welfare, and professional development of more than 10,000 geographically dispersed Airmen and their families. His leadership directly supported the mission of safeguarding U.S. air sovereignty, defending the homeland, and providing critical capabilities to U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Space Command.

Throughout his career, Denny was entrusted with complex, high-impact leadership roles spanning operational readiness, human capital strategy, professional development, and enterprise-level decision-making. He is widely respected for his ability to lead in dynamic, high-pressure environments while maintaining a people-first approach grounded in accountability, integrity, and purpose.

Beginning his service in the Air National Guard in 1989, Denny's career reflects continuous growth and service-minded leadership. He deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Deep Freeze to Antarctica, experiences that shaped his perspective on resilience, teamwork, and mission execution. Rising through the ranks, he held senior leadership positions including Wing Command Chief, New York State Command Chief, and ultimately Command Chief at the national level.

In addition to operational leadership, Denny played a pivotal role in developing future senior leaders. He served as Lead Facilitator for the Air National Guard Chief Master Sergeant Orientation Course and Command Chief Master Sergeant Training Course, mentoring and preparing senior enlisted leaders for enterprise responsibility. He also contributed to national-level leadership education through roles as a senior mentor, facilitator, and advisor.

Denny's educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Information Management Systems, senior-level professional military education, executive leadership programs, and advanced studies at institutions such as the Harvard Kennedy School, National Defense University, and the Center for Creative Leadership. He is also a recipient of numerous awards, including the Legion of Merit, recognizing exceptionally meritorious service.

Today, Denny brings his experience beyond uniform through L.E.A.D. Solutions, where he speaks to organizations about leadership, accountability, purpose, and building cultures rooted in trust and respect. His message is shaped by lived experience and a firm belief that true leadership is not about position—it is about impact, people, and legacy.

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