



ALABAMA AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

BEYOND

THE BOOK

THE ALABAMA BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE



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In 2019, The Alabama Bicentennial Commission African American Heritage Committee published ***The Future Emerges from the Past: Celebrating 200 Years of Alabama African American History and Culture***. This book highlights the history, people, events, institutions, and movements that contributed to the Great State of Alabama, the nation, and world during the state's first 200 years.

The **Alabama African American History Beyond the Book website** continues the journey and goes beyond what could be included in the book's 244 pages. On a monthly basis this site will not only highlight past Alabama African American history makers and events, it will also contain present day icons, unsung heroes/heroines, and current events. Short articles along with links to videos, photos, reference material, and additional information will be uploaded monthly for all to enjoy.

The website's goal is the same as the book's: to inspire the young and young at heart to dream big and never allow obstacles to stop their march toward achieving those dreams.

A.C. Roper

First African American U.S Army Reserve Lieutenant General

**FORMER BIRMINGHAM
POLICE CHIEF
A.C. ROPER
WILL BECOME THE FIRST
AFRICAN AMERICAN
TO ACHIEVE THE RANK OF
U.S ARMY RESERVE
LIEUTENANT GENERAL**



Courtesy: U.S. Army Reserve

Major General Roper's promotion will put him as deputy commander of the United States Northern Command, United States Element, North American Aerospace Defense Command at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado.

In his new role, Roper will help lead U.S. Northern Command in anticipating, preparing and responding to threats against North America and within Northern Command's assigned area of responsibility; and provide oversight of U.S. Northern Command's Defense Support to Civil Authorities.



A. C. Roper served simultaneously in the military and in civilian law enforcement for more than three decades.



Courtesy: wbr.com; al.com

As a civilian, Roper served in law enforcement for more than 33 years at the Hoover Police Department and then the Birmingham Police Department, where he was named chief in 2007.

He announced in November 2017 he would retire following the election of Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin, who asked all department heads to reapply for their positions. Roper said after much prayer, he and his family decided he would not reapply. He left the job officially in April 2018.



Images courtesy: ABC 3340; al.com; Public Domain

“As I reflect on this promotion and my family history, I think about my Granddad serving as a Buffalo Soldier during World War I and deploying to France in a segregated Army unit. Decades later, my Dad marched as a Foot Soldier during the civil rights struggle in Birmingham, Alabama, so this promotion is really about them and countless others who paved the path that I now walk,” Roper said in a prepared statement. “Undoubtedly, we’ve made progress but it’s not enough to be the first African American Three Star General in the Army Reserve if there’s not a second and third. We are still working to build a more perfect union and this third star simply means I have greater influence and a greater responsibility.”

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In his most recent role as Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command, Roper oversaw the Army Reserve Operational, Functional, Training, and Support Commands located in the Continental United States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Germany. Prior to that, he served as the Deputy Chief, Army Reserve, Office of the Chief of Army Reserve (OCAR), headquartered at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., with responsibility for strategy, policies, and key initiatives.

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Courtesy: Fort Hood Sentinel

During Joint Task Force Andrew, he supported hurricane relief operations in Southern Florida. He was commissioned in 1983 at the University of Alabama at Birmingham before going on to earn a Master of Science from the University of Alabama, and a Master in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

He is a graduate of the FBI's National Academy, the FBI National Executive Institute, and also served as an adjunct professor of criminal justice. He specialized in protecting critical infrastructure and served on the Executive Board of the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force.