



E-3 AWACS Aircraft



Laura Jane (née George) Bachenberg
Lieutenant Colonel U.S. Air Force
1 October 1987 – Indefinite

Laura was born in 1965 to **Clarence Hower George** (born in 1926) and **Virginia Elaine** (born in 1933) in Allentown, Pennsylvania. In 1961 the family had moved from Allentown to Wescosville, Pennsylvania, in Lower Macungie Township, where Laura maintains her permanent address. Laura attended Wescosville Elementary School and Eyer Junior High in Macungie, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Emmaus High School in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, in 1983. She then attended Bloomsburg State University in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, where she enrolled in the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps. She graduated from Bloomsburg in 1987 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Studios Art, was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force, and went on active duty on 1 October 1987. She reported to Tinker Air Force Base (AFB) near Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where she became an Air Battle Manager. She served there from May 1988 to 1993 with the 965th Airborne Air Control Squadron (AACS) as an Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) Weapons Director Instructor and flew support missions in the Middle East during the Gulf War from September 1990 to March 1991. While at Tinker AFB, Laura attended Oklahoma State University in the evenings, graduating in 1989 with a Master's Degree in Business Administration. After Tinker AFB, she was transferred in 1993 to Geilenkirchen, Germany, a NATO Airbase, where she served four years on flight duty as an Air Surveillance Officer in E-3 Sentry aircraft with AWACS Squadron 1, flying missions in support of the Balkan War. In 1997, Laura was transferred to the 603rd Air Control Squadron (ACS) at Aviano, Italy. She served there in the Standards and Evaluation Office as an Air Surveillance Officer for about two years, also in support of the Balkan War. In the spring of 1999, Laura left active duty and joined the Defense Supply Center Reserve unit in Philadelphia. In 2001, she joined the 970th AACS Reserve Squadron as an Electronic Combat Officer at Tinker AFB. She deployed and flew combat missions in support of the Iraqi War. In 2003, Laura joined the 152nd Air Operations Group (AOG) at Syracuse, New York. As of this date, Laura is a Lieutenant Colonel, continuing to serve in the Air Force Reserves in the 152nd AOG Air Operation Center as a Defensive Duty Officer, upgrading to Senior Air Defense Officer. Laura lives in Wescosville with her husband, **William Bachenberg** (born in 1958), whom she married on 31 December 2004 in Allentown. To date, Laura has been awarded 22 personal, unit and service medals and ribbons, among which are the Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, three Achievement Medals, Air Force Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, NATO Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, and two Kuwait Liberation Medals. Laura's Father, Clarence, served in the Navy in 1944 during World War II.