



# MEET YOUR LIT

The Department of the Air Force's LGBTQ+ Initiatives Team



## MSgt Iliah Duncan

MSgt Iliah Duncan (she/her) is a Personnel Support Specialist at 673 Force Support Squadron, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richards, Alaska. In her civilian career, she is an Information Technology Engineer for a major healthcare company. A native of Denver, Colorado, she joined the Air Force Reserve shortly after the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in 2011.

### What's the importance of your work on the LIT?

I have two children, ages 1 and 13. Expanding my family has been challenging because there has not been a single source of information for conception issues. This is not just an LGBTQ+ issue. It's a women's issue and a human issue.

### What advice would you pass on?

Every time I make a major life decision, I go and consult a Chief who is a wonderful mentor. At the end of each mentoring session she tells me "You're doing great." It's a small thing, but with such a huge impact. My mentor sees my best authentic self and validates that. It's both powerful and empowering.

When I first joined, I didn't have anyone to take me under their wing as a mentor. I was not knowledgeable on Reserve promotion processes, and missed a couple of promotion opportunities. It took some mentoring to get my motivation back. I hope that as I continue in my Air Force career, people will remember me as a mentor because I don't want anyone to miss an opportunity for lack of mentorship.

*"I was on a path to self-destruction and needed to find my way. When I was 22, I was working in a call center and needed to get on a better career path. A new opportunity presented itself with the end of Don't Ask, Don't Tell."*

*-MSgt Iliah Duncan*

