



**Lt. Col. Eldridge F. Williams**  
Tuskegee Army Airfield

Eldridge F. Williams was born November 2, 1917. In 1941, he was drafted and after a year of service. He was selected to attend Officer Training School. Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps and assigned to Tuskegee Army Airfield, he rose to the rank of captain. But with no desire for a military career, he left the service and became head basketball coach at North Carolina A&T College in Greensboro.

In 1948, Williams was recalled to military service during the Berlin Airlift. In December of 1949, a year after President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981, which integrated the U.S. armed forces, Williams departed for his first integrated assignment on the island of Okinawa. Williams served in various military capacities, and after 23 years, he retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

In January 1964, Williams joined the Dade County Public Schools. He was named coordinator of federal programs, and later chosen as the director of administrative staffing and policy development. In 1971, he assumed the job of director of school desegregation. The position eventually became director, Office of Equal Opportunity, which encompassed the implementation of Titles VII, IX and other federal regulations on discrimination. Williams became executive director of personnel in 1978 and retired in 1985.



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