

## **General Charles Q. Brown, Jr.**

General CQ Brown, Jr. is a strategic leader and global security expert whose career has centered on leading people, strengthening alliances, and driving change. He most recently served as the 21st Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the nation's highest-ranking military officer and principal military advisor to the President, Secretary of Defense, and National Security Council. As Chairman, he emphasized that honing warfighting skill must have primacy, championed bold modernization and new operating concepts, and underscored that trust remains the foundation of the military profession. He guided efforts to balance risk, align strategic processes, and advance Joint Force design for an evolving security environment.

Previously, as the 22nd Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, General Brown advanced his hallmark strategic approach—"Accelerate Change or Lose." He empowered Airmen through mission command, elevated data-informed decision-making, and deepened allied and partner interoperability under the "Integrated by Design" concept. A decorated F-16 pilot, he commanded at every level and served across the United States, the Middle East, Europe, Africa, and the Indo-Pacific, building deep experience in coalition airpower and joint operations. Throughout these roles, he focused on cultivating future-focused talent, aligning large organizations to execute under pressure, and building cultures of accountability and initiative.

He now serves as an Executive-in-Residence at Duke University, jointly appointed in the Sanford School of Public Policy and the Pratt School of Engineering, where he teaches and helps develop curriculum on leadership and national-security strategic decision-making. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Bessemer Trust, contributing strategic oversight and governance expertise, and as a Senior Advisor to McKinsey & Company, supporting leadership development and enterprise-change initiatives. In these roles, he translates lessons from the flight line to the White House Situation Room assisting modern organizations navigate disruption and mentoring the next generation of leaders.

General Brown earned a bachelor's in civil engineering from Texas Tech University, a master's in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and served as a National Defense Fellow at the Institute for Defense Analyses. Named one of TIME's 100 Most Influential People and inspired by the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen, he remains committed to principled leadership, international collaboration, and preparing leaders to make sound decisions under pressure. Whether advising boardrooms, teaching in the classroom, or speaking with emerging leaders, he brings a calm, candid, and forward-looking perspective—grounded in trust, allied integration, and the imperative to accelerate change.