BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

MR. MICHEAL WALTON

Mr. Micheal (Mike or “Blackeagle”) Walton is the Public Affairs Deputy Director, Arnold Engineering Development Complex, Arnold Air Force Base, Tenn. He advises the Director and other key leaders with communicating, especially via electronic and social medium, the mission of the largest and most advanced complex of flight simulation test facilities in the world. The complex comprises 30 active aerospace test facilities located at Arnold AFB, as well as two geographically separated units, the Hypervelocity Tunnel 9 in White Oak, Md., and the National Full-Scale Aerodynamics Complex at Moffett Field, Calif. The test facilities simulate flight from subsonic to hypersonic speeds at altitudes from sea level to space. All NASA manned spacecraft and every high performance aircraft, missile, space launch system and most military satellites in use by the Department of Defense today have been tested in the complex's facilities.

Mr. Walton is a 1982 graduate of Eastern Kentucky University and began his federal service in 1980 by enlisting in the Kentucky Army National Guard. For close to 30 years, Walton would transition between roles in the Kentucky Guard, Army Reserve and the active component. While on active duty, Walton served in Germany, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Qatar, South Korea, Japan, Bosnia, Hungary, Sardinia, Kuwait, and Iraq; in countries within West Africa and Central America; and at Army installations within the continental United States and Alaska. As commander of the Army’s 318th Public Affairs Operations Center in Kuwait and later Iraq, Walton and his unit created and executed the DoD’s media embedding program. His last posting as Senior Public Affairs Planner with the United States European Command (USEUCOM) was his fourteenth career overseas active duty assignment and the ninth active duty assignment in the last seven years prior to his retirement in 2010.

In the Army National Guard, Walton served as Command Signal Officer within combat Engineer Battalions in Augusta, Ga.; and later in Richmond, Ky. He also taught Senior ROTC classes as part of the instructional cadre belonging to Eastern Kentucky University while attending graduate schooling there.

In the Army Reserve, he was assigned to Sacramento Army Depot, Calif.; the 3397th Army Garrison (Fort Campbell), Chattanooga, Tenn.; the 21st Theater Army Area Command in Indianapolis, Ind.; and with the 88th Regional Readiness Command (RRC)’s Deputy Chief of Staff for Information Management and later within the 88th RRC’s Public Affairs office, Fort Snelling, Minn. Prior to his retirement, he served as the 88th RRC’s last Command/Regional Public Affairs Officer.

Walton was transferred to the Army’s Retired Reserve at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in October of 2010, completing one month short of 30 years’ worth of uniformed service -- 37 if one included ROTC and JROTC.

Walton was hired as a civilian public affairs technician in 2000 and in 2004 was selected as Civilian Public Affairs Officer, 88th Regional Readiness Command which he served until his present assignment.

In June 2011, Mr. Walton became AEDC's deputy director of public affairs, responsible for the complex's Internet and social media public affairs; community outreach; and emergency management liaison missions. Mr. Walton lives in installation housing at Arnold Village.

EDUCATION

1982 Bachelor of Science in Speech Communication/Human Relations and Public Relations, Eastern Kentucky University

1992 Master of Arts in Recreation and Outdoor Education, Eastern Kentucky University

1994 Certificate, Electronic Communications, Western Kentucky University

2001 Certificate, Applied Communications, University of Oklahoma

Walton's military education includes graduation from the Army's Command and General Officer Staff College as well as from the Signal Officer Basic and Advanced Courses at Fort Gordon, Georgia and the Adjutant General Officer Advanced Course at Fort Harrison, Indiana. He is also a graduate of the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Officer, Communications Security, Personnel Management, and Tactical Communications Officer Courses. He is a graduate of the Defense Information School's public affairs qualification course in addition to the NATO Public Information Officer and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Advanced Public Information Officer courses.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION AND MAJOR AWARDS

Walton has been honored with the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, three awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, two awards of the Joint Commendation Medal, four awards of the Army Commendation Medal, two awards of the Joint Achievement Medal and seven awards of the Army Achievement Medal. He has also received the Commander's Awards for Civilian Service and for Public Service and the Army Civilian Achievement Medal. He also earned several other service awards and is the holder of the Combat Action and Expert Field Medical Badges. In 1977, 98, 2001, 2005, 2007 and 2009 Walton received on his own or as part of a public affairs office the Gen. Keith A. Ware Public Affairs Award. A long time Scouting member, Walton is an Eagle Scout with Silver and Gold Palms and holder of the three-bead Wood Badge and the Sea Badge.

The International Webmaster Association has certified Walton as a Webmaster in 1998.

(Current as of August 2012)