



BIOGRAPHY

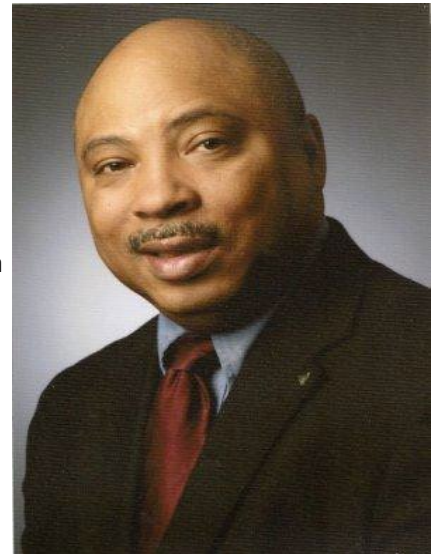


UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

MR. MICHEAL WALTON

Mr. Micheal (Mike or "Blackeagle") Walton retired from the United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), U.S. Department of Defense on 28 September 2022, after serving a combined 47 years of military and civilian service.

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 Army National 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 several 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 the 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. He was later promoted to the rank of Colonel in 2017.

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 2011.

In June 2011, Mr. Walton was hired and selected as the Air Force's Arnold Engineering Development Complex (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.

In 2016, Walton was promoted and selected as the Social and Community Media chief at the Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC)'s headquarters at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, in Ohio. In addition to his principal duties, Walton also advised the Director of Operations on public affairs tasks and operations within the emergency management arena.

In 2019, Walton was selected, promoted and served as part of the core element re-establishing the Public Affairs Directorate at the U.S Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. Walton assisted the command with shaping and guiding TRANSCOM's public and community relations missions and activities until his voluntary retirement in 2022.

Mr. Walton currently lives in installation housing at Scott Air Force Base.

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 and the Combined Arms Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He is a graduate of 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 U.S. Air Force's Outstanding Civilian Career Service Award, 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 Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service, the Army Commanders' Award for Public Service and the Army Civilian Achievement Medal. He also earned several other military service awards and 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 volunteer, Walton is an Eagle Scout with Silver and Gold Palms, the Order of the Arrow Vigil Honor, the Sea Badge, and is a holder of the three-bead Wood Badge.

The International Webmaster Association has certified Walton as a Webmaster since 2021.