



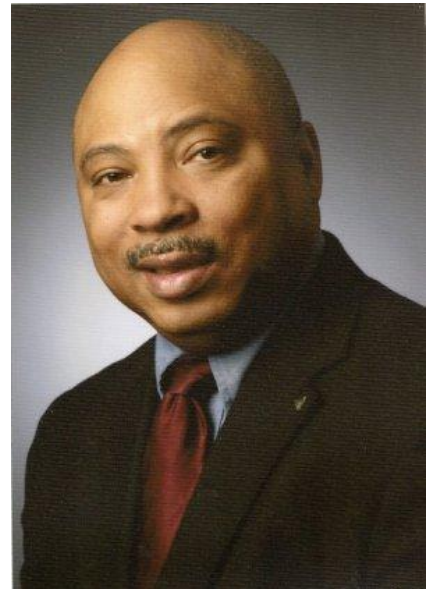
# BIOGRAPHY



## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### MR. MICHEAL WALTON

Mr. Micheal (Mike or "Blackeagle") Walton is the Social Media Manager for the Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC), located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. He advises the Public Affairs Director and other key senior leaders with communicating and promoting, especially via electronic and social medium, the mission of the largest and most advanced complex of logistics, test, sustainment, weapons support, and mission support facilities in the world to a potentially world-wide audience. AFMC is a major subordinate command of the United States Air Force, with subordinate organizations and units in 22 states and U.S. territories.



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, 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 318<sup>th</sup> 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 Army 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 3397<sup>th</sup> Army Garrison (supporting Fort Campbell, Ky.), Chattanooga, Tenn.; the 21<sup>st</sup> Theater Army Area Command in Indianapolis, Ind.; and with the 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command (RRC)'s Deputy Chief of Staff for Information Management and later within the 88<sup>th</sup> RRC's Public Affairs office, Fort Snelling, Minn. Prior to his Army retirement, he served as the 88<sup>th</sup> 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 is on the standby list for promotion to full Colonel.

Walton was hired as a military public affairs technician in 2000 and in 2004 was selected as Civilian Public Affairs Officer, 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command. In 2008, Walton served concurrently as Regional Public Affairs Officer as well as senior civilian public affairs technician during the 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Support Command's reorganization. Walton resigned as a military technician upon his mandatory Army retirement in 2010.

In June 2011, Mr. Walton was hired by the United States Air Force and assigned as 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, Mr. Walton was promoted and selected to serve in his current position at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Walton resides in Butler Township, Dayton, Ohio.

## **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. He is one of the first graduates of the Defense Information School's Social Media Manager Course.

## **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 Service 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, 1998, 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 and leader, Walton is an Eagle Scout with Silver and Gold Palms and was honored with the BSA's Outstanding Eagle Scout Award in 2014. He is also the holder of the three-bead Wood Badge and the Sea Badge training recognitions.

The International Webmaster Association has certified Walton as a Webmaster in 1998 and again in 2008.

(Current as of May 2017)