



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL ERICK O. WELCOME

Col. Erick O. Welcome is the Director of Communications and Cyberspace Operations, 9th Reconnaissance Wing, Beale Air Force Base, California. The A6 Directorate provides strategic vision, policy, guidance and advocacy to advance communications and cyberspace technology in support of 7,000 total force personnel, 28 units, and nine tenants across five operating locations.

The colonel enlisted in the Air Force in 1990, then received his commission through Officer Training School in 2000. He led the J6 team responsible for USSTRATCOM's effort to build the first-ever Cruise Missile Support Activity, Atlantic, Tomahawk Land Attack Missile Network Operations Center. Additionally, he served in a variety of joint, combatant command, and major command-level positions including assignments in cyber, logistics, senior leader matters, and instructor duty spanning from Operation DESERT STORM to Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

Prior to his current assignment, he was the Deputy Chief of Staff, United States Cyber Command.



EDUCATION

- 1999 Associate in Applied Science, Logistics, Community College of the Air Force
- 2000 Bachelor of Science, Industrial Technology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill.
- 2000 Officer Training School, Maxwell Air Force Base (AFB), Ala.
- 2000 Basic Communications and Information Officer Training, Keesler AFB, Miss.
- 2005 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2006 Advanced Communications and Information Officer Training, Keesler AFB, Miss.
- 2007 Masters of International Management, University of Phoenix, Ariz.
- 2010 Space Fundamentals Course, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- 2011 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2013 Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
- 2013 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2019 Master of Strategic Studies, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. February 1990 – April 1990, Student, Basic Military Training, Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), Texas
2. April 1990 – June 1990, Student, Technical Training, Lowry AFB, Colo.
3. June 1990 – December 1992, Logistics Readiness Specialist, Dyess AFB, Texas
4. December 1992 – December 1993, War Reserve Materiel Specialist, Osan Air Base, South Korea
5. December 1993 – February 2000, Logistics Readiness Supervisor and NCOIC, Travis AFB Color Guard, Travis AFB, Calif.
6. February 2000 – May 2000, Student, Officer Training School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

7. May 2000 – October 2000, Student, Basic Communications Info Officer Training, Keesler AFB, Miss.
8. October 2000 – October 2002, Chief, Plans & Programs and Deputy Commander, Network Systems Flight, 1st Combat Communications Squadron, Ramstein AB, Germany
9. October 2002 – April 2004, Instructor, Basic Communications and Information Officer Training, 333rd Training Squadron, Keesler AFB, Miss.
10. April 2004 – October 2005, Executive Officer, 81st Training Group, Keesler AFB, Miss.
11. October 2005 – October 2007, Commander, Plans and Implementation Flight, then Director of Operations, 35th Communications Squadron, Misawa AB, Japan
12. October 2007 – July 2009, Chief, Tomahawk C2 Systems Division, Cruise Missile Support Activity- Atlantic, United States Strategic Command, Norfolk, Va.
13. July 2009 – June 2010, Chief, Cyber Network Systems Integration, Directorate of Communications, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Va.
14. June 2010 – April 2011, Deputy Chief, Senior Leader Development Division, Directorate of Manpower, Personnel and Services, Headquarters Air Force Space Command (AFSC), Peterson AFB, Colo.
15. April 2011 – June 2012, Executive Officer to the Vice Commander, AFSC, Headquarters AFSC, Peterson AFB, Colo.
16. June 2012 – June 2013, Student, Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
17. July 2013 – January 2014, Commander, 451st Expeditionary Communications Squadron, Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan
18. January 2014 – June 2014, Deputy Director, Command, Control, Communications and Computer Systems, Air Forces Central Command, Al Udeid AB, Qatar
19. June 2014 – August 2016, J6 Contingency Operations and Plans Lead, Directorate for Command, Control, Communications and Computers/Cyber, the Joint Staff, J6, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
20. August 2016 – June 2018, Commander, 460th Space Communications Squadron, Buckley AFB, Colo.
21. June 2018 – May 2019, Senior Developmental Education Student, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
22. June 2019 – July 2020, Deputy Chief of Staff, United States Cyber Command, Fort Meade, Md.
23. July 2020 – Present, Director of Communications and Cyberspace Operations, 9th Reconnaissance Wing, Beale AFB, Calif.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Superior Service Medal
Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster
Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Joint Service Achievement Medal
Combat Readiness Medal
Afghanistan Campaign Medal with bronze star device
Korean Defense Service Medal
Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal
NATO Medal

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2018 Major General Harold M. McClelland Unit Award (Best AF Space Command Cyber Squadron)

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 26, 2000
First Lieutenant May 26, 2002
Captain May 26, 2004
Major December 1, 2009
Lieutenant Colonel December 1, 2013
Colonel (Frocked)

(CURRENT AS OF AUGUST 2020)