



BIOGRAPHY

AIR FORCE OPERATIONAL TEST & EVALUATION CENTER

JAMES K. ECK

James K. Eck is the Director of the Strategic Plans and Requirements Directorate, Headquarters Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. He is responsible for test and acquisition policy, resource programming, strategic planning, and test requirements for AFOTEC's headquarters, detachments, and operating locations.

Prior to this assignment, Mr. Eck was a senior inspections specialist at the Air Force Inspection Agency where he served as the Division Chief in the Inspections Directorate. In this role, he led a division of inspectors that conducted management and unit effectiveness inspections of organizations across the Air Force.

Prior to his entry into the federal civilian service in 2014, Mr. Eck served more than 26 years in the Air Force and retired as a colonel in June 2014. He was a bomber navigator/weapon systems officer with more than 3,500 hours in the B-1 and B-52 aircraft. During his active duty career, he deployed in support of Operations Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. He also had the privilege to command the B-1 Bomber Squadron at the U.S. Air Force Weapons School which was a selectively-manned flying squadron executing the Air Force's most advanced B-1 training program. Mr. Eck also had the opportunity to serve on the Air Staff at the Pentagon. He was the Navigator/Electronic Warfare Officer Career Field Manager where he managed the 4,700 person navigator/EWO force throughout their rated service in the Air Force. While in that role, Mr. Eck authored, championed, and briefed the Secretary of the Air Force on the navigator compensation proposal to improve retention which the SECAF approved in 2002. Additionally, Mr. Eck was in the Pentagon during the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 and in the aftermath helped establish the Headquarters Air Force Crisis Action Team Combat Operations Watch Cell. He was later appointed the Chief of the Operations Watch Cell which kept Air Force senior leadership apprised of the current situation during the first several months of Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.



Mr. Eck completed his active duty career as the Vice Commander of the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center. He served in that position for three different commanders. Mr. Eck modified and overhauled organizational processes as necessary to meet the commander's leadership style and requirements. In his role as the Vice Commander, he was also dual-hatted as the AFOTEC Inspector General where he developed the AFOTEC Commander's Inspection Program to ensure compliance with the newly revised Air Force Inspection System.

EDUCATION:

- 1987 Bachelor of Science degree, mechanical engineering, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- 1996 Master of Science degree, technology management, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, S.D.
- 2008 Master of Science degree, strategic studies, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION:

- 1994 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 1996 U.S. Air Force Weapons School (B-1 Division), Ellsworth AFB, S.D.
- 2000 Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
- 2004 Air War College (by correspondence)
- 2008 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

CAREER CHRONOLOGY:

1. 1987 – 1988, student, Undergraduate Navigator Training, Mather AFB, Calif.
2. 1988 – 1989, student, B-52 Navigator Training, 329th Combat Training Squadron, Castle AFB, Calif.
3. 1989 – 1991, B-52 navigator; instructor/evaluator navigator, 9th Bomb Squadron, 7th Bomb Wing, Carswell AFB, Texas
4. 1991 – 1992, student, B-1 Offensive Systems Officer Training, 28th Bomb Squadron, Dyess AFB, Texas
5. 1992 – 1996, B-1 offensive systems officer; instructor B-1 weapon systems officer; Chief, Offensive Branch Weapons and Tactics Flight, 37th Bomb Squadron, 28th Bomb Wing, Ellsworth AFB, S.D.
6. 1996, student, U.S. Air Force Weapons School (B-1 Division), Ellsworth AFB, S.D.
7. 1997, weapons officer, 37th Bomb Squadron, 28th Bomb Wing, Ellsworth AFB, S.D.
8. 1997 – 1999, instructor; assistant flight commander; flight commander, U.S. Air Force Weapons School B-1 Division, Ellsworth AFB, S.D. and 57th Wing, Nellis AFB, Nev.
9. 1999 – 2000, student, Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
10. 2000 – 2003, Navigator and Electronic Warfare Officer Career Field Manager, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
11. 2003 – 2004, Assistant Director of Operations, 37th Bomb Squadron, 28th Bomb Wing, Ellsworth AFB, S.D.
12. 2004, Chief of Plans and Programs, 28th Bomb Wing, Ellsworth AFB, S.D.
13. 2005 – 2007, Commander, 77th Weapons Squadron, Dyess AFB, Texas and U.S. Air Force Weapons School, 57th Wing, Nellis AFB, Nev.
14. 2007 – 2008, student, U.S. Air Force Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
15. 2008 – 2010, Director of Operations, Headquarters AFOTEC, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
16. 2010 – 2014, Vice Commander, Headquarters AFOTEC, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
17. 2014 – 2015, Senior Inspections Specialist, Air Force Inspection Agency, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
18. 2015 – 2020, Division Chief, Inspections Directorate, Air Force Inspection Agency, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
19. 2020 – present, Director, Strategic Plans and Requirements, Headquarters AFOTEC, Kirtland AFB, N.M.

AWARDS AND HONORS:

Air Force Meritorious Civilian Service Award (two)
2018 Air Force Inspection Agency Civilian (Category 3) of the Year
2015 Air Force Inspection Agency Civilian Inspector of the Year
Legion of Merit
Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters
Air Medal
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device and three oak leaf clusters
Combat Readiness Medal with two oak leaf clusters
Southwest Asia Service Medal
Kuwaiti Liberation Medal