

LIEUTENANT COLONEL BYRON L. JAMES

Lieutenant Colonel Byron L. James is Chief of the Public Affairs Department, Defense Information School, (DINFOS) Fort George G. Meade, MD where he directs the largest of six training departments consisting of 40 professional and dedicated instructors responsible for all of the Department of Defense's enlisted basic Public Affairs training and intermediate-level training in journalism and photojournalism. He acts as liaison to the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Public Affairs for AF Service-unique instruction at DINFOS and is the Air Force's senior public affairs representative for 1,100 officer, civilian, enlisted and allied students a year.

Colonel James is a native of Wedgefield, SC (Sumter County). A 1981 honor graduate of Hillcrest High School, he received a full Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Journalism (Radio and Television Broadcasting) from the University of South Carolina in 1986. Upon graduation, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. Colonel James graduated in December 1987 from DINFOS's Public Affairs Officer Course, Fort Benjamin Harrison, IN. In 1993 he earned a Masters of Science Degree in Marketing Communication and Information Technology from Florida State University through the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) Civilian Institute Program. His Professional Military Education includes Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College and Air War College.

Colonel James has held many staff, supervisory and executive positions during his twenty-one year career. He began in December 1986 as Chief, Media Relations and Deputy Chief, Public Affairs, 351st Strategic Missile Wing, Whiteman AFB, MO. In January 1989 he became Deputy Chief and later advanced to Chief, Public Affairs, 633rd Air Base Wing, Andersen AFB, Guam. After serving as PA Chief at Andersen, he was competitively selected for the AFIT program. Beginning in July 1993, Colonel James served as Community Relations Staff Officer, Deputy Chief Plans and Programs and later Deputy Chief Community Relations at Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Randolph AFB, TX.

In July 1996 then-Captain James was selected to serve as National Press Desk Officer, then transitioned to the position of Deputy Chief, Air Force News and Information, Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Public Affairs, Pentagon, Washington DC. He returned to San Antonio, Texas as Director, Public Affairs, 37th Training Wing, Lackland AFB, TX in January 2000. In September 2002 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel while serving as Director, Public Affairs, Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center, Tinker AFB, OK until his current DINFOS assignment beginning in July 2004.

Colonel James has served as the lead Public Affairs Officer on deployments in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH in Saudi Arabia, Operation NORTHERN WATCH in Turkey, and most recently at Baghdad International Airport in Iraq in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

He is married to the former Monique Patrice Hancock of Lancaster, SC. They have been married for 18 years and have four children; Bria, age 14, Byron, age 12, Bailey, age 10, and Brooklyn, age 10 months.