

BIOGRAPHY

White House Communications Agency, Department of Defense

Mr. Harold (Rich) Gonsalves Jr.



Mr. Harold (Rich) Gonsalves, Chief of Staff of the White House Communications Agency (WHCA), Defense Information Systems Agency, leads the strategic direction of the Agency ensuring mission success, responsiveness to emerging requirements and effective and efficient utilization of government resources.

A native of Cape Cod Massachusetts, Mr. Harold (Rich) Gonsalves, has dedicated 35 years to government service and continues his tenure. A retired United States Army Warrant Officer, he began his military service in 1983 and retired in 2006 with 23 years of service. He had multiple deployments and overseas tours of duty. Specifically, in August of 1990 he deployed to support Operation Desert Storm, returning from Iraq in April of 1991, when he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his leadership supporting 82nd Airborne Division with critical communications. He was also recognized for his deployment supporting Operation Restore Hope, Mogadishu, Somalia, where his element provided the only mobile secure phone network for the region. He played a major role in the evolution of tactical communications from analog to high speed data, transforming the 82nd Signal Battalion as the first unit in the Army equipped with the Tactical High Speed Data Network (THSDN). His efforts were acknowledged, as he was awarded the Signal Regiment's superior signaler award, the Bronze Order of Mercury. His performance led to selection for assignment to the WHCA in March 2003, where he performed duties as a Presidential Communications Officer (PCO), leading teams of communicators around the globe, to countries such as Senegal, Belgium, Ireland, Columbia and more, accounting for 372 travel days. He culminated his military career in WHCA as the PCO Program Manager, developing policy and mission standards.

Upon retirement in 2006 he joined the federal service, honored with the assignment as the WHCA Deputy Director for Operations. In this role he directed the planning and operations of Presidential, Vice Presidential, and First Lady Information Technology support missions and set mission priorities for the Agency. Notably, his knowledge and leadership was essential for both WHCA and the White House Military Office concerning the Presidential Transitions of George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump; he was recognized for his leadership and awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 2017. In 2018, his federal service performance granted him the nomination to attend the National War College, National Defense University in Washington, D.C. Upon graduation in June of 2019, he was selected to serve as the WHCA Chief of Staff, where he concentrates his efforts on strategically moving the Agency in the direction to build and maintain a world class organization poised to deliver Presidential quality communications services.

Mr. Gonsalves holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management and a Master of Science Degree in National Security Strategy.

Mr. Gonsalves is married to Aprale Davis-Gonsalves and they have one son, Demisse.