



1600 COMMUNICATOR

1600 Communications Association, April 2025

WHO ARE WE

Established in 1968, the 1600 Communications Association is a fraternal and social organization comprised of military and civilian personnel who have served as members of the White House Communications Agency (WHCA) and its predecessor the White House Army Signal Agency.



This year, WHCA celebrated its 83rd birthday—originally known as the White House Signal Corps (WHSC), then the White House Signal Detachment (WHSD), and finally the White House Army Signal Agency (WHASA) before WHCA was officially formed by the United States Department of War on March 25, 1942 during the President Franklin D. Roosevelt Administration. The organization was created to provide secure normal, secret, and emergency communications requirement in support of the President of the United States.

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Message from the Association President

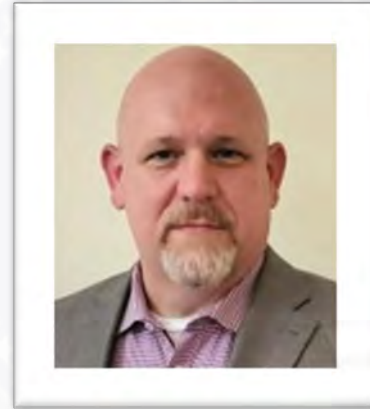


As we move into the next phase of the Association's journey, I want to take a moment to reflect on our mission: strengthening the bond between past and present members of the White House Communications Agency (WHCA). Our alumni network is built on shared experiences, professionalism, and a commitment to service—values that continue to define us.

Looking ahead, we are focused on expanding opportunities for networking, mentorship, and professional development. Many of our members have expressed interest in connecting more closely with current WHCA professionals, and we are actively working to foster these relationships. Whether through virtual events, in-person gatherings, or professional panels, our goal is to provide meaningful ways to engage with those who carry on WHCA's vital mission today.

I encourage all of you to take the next step in strengthening these connections. Reach out to fellow members, share your experiences, and offer insights to those following in our footsteps. If you have not already, be sure to stay engaged through our association's website, social media channels, and upcoming events.

Recently, we partnered with a new webmaster to revamp the look and feel of our website. This is an important effort in our communications strategy to modernize how we connect, correspond, and share information. The updated site will feature a more user friendly layout, improved navigation, and expanded content—making it easier for members to stay informed.



This leads me to another order of business—to support the many reunions that are being organized each year around the country. It is amazing to see the fellowship and connections that these events have been creating. I have been working with the WHCA command team on ways to share more updates about what's happening at WHCA...from mission highlights, and leadership changes to behind-the-scenes news, we want to give our alumni a window into the Agency's current work and opportunities to connect with those continuing the mission we proudly served. So, stay tuned...

Let us know what you are planning, or if you have questions on the Association's events.

Contact me at president@1600commassoc.org

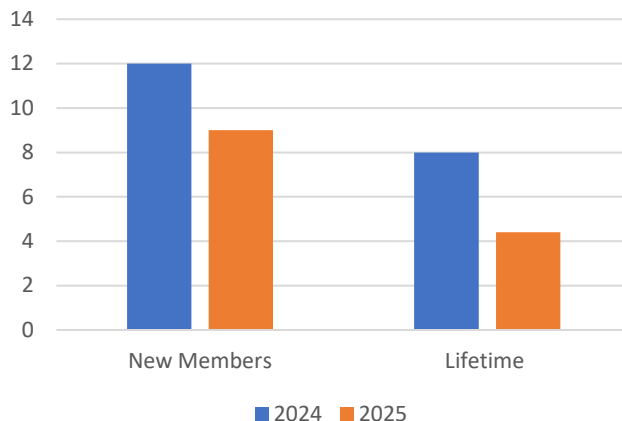
Respectfully,
Rob Blake
Board President,
1600 Communications Association



MEMBERSHIP

In **2024**, the treasurer processed 31 membership transactions, including annual dues payments—12 transactions were for new memberships and eight joined as Lifetime members.

To date in **2025**, we have processed 19 membership transactions, including nine new member dues. Five of those new members joined as Lifetime members.



Thank you to those who paid their dues in 2024 and 2025.

Unfortunately, several members still have not paid their dues for 2023 and 2024. They have been notified and moved to inactive status.

THE CURRENT ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP TOTAL IS **658**.

Welcome New Members

(Joined 2024)

Bascom Conner (2022 to 2026),
Karen Bleier-Schmeets (1989 to 1992),
Benjamin J. Bradley (2018 to 2022 and 2024 to 2025), **Jacklyn Brew**,
Kenyatta Clark (6/2018 to 7/2022),
Codie M. Flanagan (Jan 2021 to Present),
Gregory T. Hall (May 2010 to May 2024),
Robert W. Martin (Jan 1991 to April 2023),
Christopher S. Muncy (2016 to 2019),
Elaine J. Robinson (July 1983 to March 1990), **Felix Torres** (May 2023 to Present),
Carl J. Worthington (2008 to 2010)

(Joined 2025)

Jason L. Blair (2014 to 2018),
Dean C. Cook (1968 to 1970),
William F. Festing, III, (Apr 1969 to Feb 1972), **Marshall B. Malmberg** (2003 to 2008 and 2019 to 2023), **Michael Quinn** (2011 to 2013), **Paul Renick** (Aug 1973 to Jun 1975), **Patrick A. Thomas** (2012 to 2016), **Michael S. Wynn** (Aug 2024 to Aug 2029), **La'aKea Young** (Aug 2015 to Oct 2019 and May 2020 to Jun 2025)





ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



To be a member in good standing, dues must be paid in January every year. **Please remember, the dues are \$30.00 yearly.** Your dues cover January to December. Reminders about annual dues are sent to members via our newsletters, emails, and posts on our webpage.

If you have already sent your membership renewal and dues—**thank you!** If you have **not**, complete the below form and send it along with your dues. To save on postage, we **do not** send payment reminders or receipts via ground mail.

Coming soon! We are working on more modern methods, from debit cards to digital wallets, to make payments for membership faster and more convenient.

If your mailing address, email address, or other contact information has changed, please contact us at treasurer@1600commassoc.org.

1600 Communications Association Membership Renewal

NAME: _____ SPOUSE NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

WHCA SERVICE DATES: From _____ To _____

Please make check or money order payable to 1600 Communications Association . Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for reply. For quicker response mail to Glenn Arnett, 128 Atlantis Lane, Lake Frederick, VA 22630-2099.

Last Wheels Up



In Memoriam

We honor all our WHCA alumni who have passed, known and unknown—with gratitude we pay tribute to their service and their loved ones who shared them with us.

2022

- ❖ **Khadijah Black** – WHCA, Vice Presidential Communications Officer
Served from 2006 to 2010 (Deceased December 29, 2022)

2023

- ❖ **John F. Zumwalde** – White House Army Signal Agency (WHASA)
Served Eisenhower (Deceased September 10, 2023)
- ❖ **Arthur W. Bishop** – WHCA
(Deceased November 3, 2023)
- ❖ **Col Harland Priddle** – WHCA Deputy Commander
Served from 1971 to 1974 (Deceased December 12, 2023)
- ❖ **LTC Melvin “Buster” Miller** – WHCA
Served from 1982 to 1989 (Deceased December 25, 2023)

2024

- ❖ **Thomas H. Gillespie** – WHCA
Served from 1975 to 1985 and from 1986 to 1991 (Deceased February 7, 2024)
- ❖ **Timothy J. Entrot** – WHCA
Served from March 1977 to May 1992 (Deceased February 23, 2024)



In Memoriam (continued)

2024 – Continued from Previous Page

- ❖ **James G. Hansen** – WHCA
(Deceased March 12, 2024)
- ❖ **William “Bill” Harwood** – WHCA
(Deceased March 12, 2024)
- ❖ **Robert L. Lindley, Jr.** – WHCA
Served from February 1972 to March 1988 (Deceased May 27, 2024)
- ❖ **Edward L. Burrows** – WHCA
Served from 1970 to 1998 (Deceased August 25, 2024)
- ❖ **Robert H. Mitchell** – WHCA
Served from January 1976 to March 1984 (Deceased October 17, 2024)
- ❖ **George E. Vinson** – WHCA
Served Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan (Deceased October 29, 2024)
- ❖ **Kenneth R. Bulthuis** – WHCA
Served from 1967 to 1970 (Deceased 11 December 2024)

2025

- ❖ **SFC Benjamin J. Bradley** – WHCA, Presidential Communications Command
Served from 2018 to 2022 and 2024 to 2025 (Deceased April 11, 2025)





COMING SOON COMING SOON

Our website is under new management and will be updated soon with the Association's **SWAG**. The new look and feel will allow you to order online
Get Your Official Gear

1600 COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION

CHALLENGE COINS

50th Anniversary and Generic

- **\$25.00 each** plus \$5.00 postage if paying with a check (using PayPal \$35.00 each)



50th Anniversary Coin

1600

Buy

Today



Generic Coin

AVAILABLE NOW

PRESIDENTIAL SERVICE BADGE (PSB)

STICKERS and DECALS:

- **\$5.00 each** if paying with a check (using PayPal - \$6.00)

SMALL LAPEL PINS

- **\$10.00 each** if paying with a check (using PayPal - \$12.00)



Reminder: ONLY authorized recipients of the PSB can wear the lapel pin and display the stickers/decals.

POLO SHIRTS

There are a few available in limited sizes

HOW TO ORDER?

To purchase items, send your request to treasurer@1600commassoc.org or mail to Glenn Arnett, 128 Atlantis Lane, Lake Frederick, VA 22630-2099

Make checks payable to the 1600 Communications Association.



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The 1600 Communications Foundation's Scholarship Program was founded by Colonel George J. McNally, the first Commanding Officer of the White House Army Signal Agency. The foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. It has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships to help Association members in good standing, and their immediate dependents and grandchildren pursuing higher education to foster academic success and open doors to new opportunities. This includes spouses, children, and grandchildren of deceased members.

\$12,000 AWARDED IN SCHOLARSHIPS - 2024

The 1600 Communications Foundation is proud to acknowledge the recipients of the 2024 highly competitive scholarship awards. Each year, these scholarships are designed to recognize and support outstanding students who demonstrate not only academic achievement but also leadership, service, and a commitment to communication excellence.

The 2024 application pool was the strongest to date, with candidates from different backgrounds submitting impressive applications, compelling short essay responses, and a long list of community and extracurricular contributions. The competition was intense—making the selection process an exciting but incredibly difficult task for the scholarship committee. Applicants were evaluated on academic performance, leadership potential, commitment to financial obligations, communication and public service, and overall alignment with the foundation's mission. Each applicant stood out for their passion and resilience. With so many exceptional students applying, final decisions were far from easy.

The Association would also like to thank the members of the selection committee: Gordon Aiken, George Bafundo, Joseph (Jake) Simmons, and Glenn Whited.

2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to all of our applicants—and especially the 2024 award recipients!

❖ JANIAH COLLIER - \$4,000

Ronald K. Thomsen Memorial Scholarship Recipient
Spelman College

● ● ●

This award recognizes Ron Thomsen, a long-time Association member who served on the Board in virtually every capacity for more than 25 years and was a driving force behind today's Program.

❖ MATTHEW WATKINS - \$3,500

University of Maryland, Graduate School of Architecture

❖ CARLY CROWDER - \$2,500

Fairmont State College

❖ SADIE MURPHY - \$2,000

University of Central Florida

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR 2025

DEADLINE MAY 31, 2025



APPLICATION DEADLINE – **MAY 31, 2025**

<https://1600commfoundation.org/application>

ELIGIBILITY

- ✓ Be a senior at a public, private or parochial high school graduating class of 2025 accepted to an accredited college, technical, or professional school;
- ✓ Or a current student at an accredited college, university, or technical/professional school;
- ✓ Possess a commitment to school and community;
- ✓ Show commitment to meeting financial responsibilities of earning a higher education;
- ✓ Must be sponsored by a member of the 1600 Communications Association in good standing for at least two years.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- ✓ Go to the 1600 Comm Foundation website, <https://1600commfoundation.org/> under the **Scholarship** tab for information on the program and the downloadable application;
- ✓ Use a computer or typewriter to complete every field of the application—use N/A where needed (no handwritten applications will be accepted);
- ✓ Do not send any letters of recommendation, transcripts, or other supporting documents;
- ✓ Application must be signed by both the applicant and the sponsor and submitted via email to scholarships@1600commassoc.org;
- ✓ Email must be timestamped no later than May 31, 2025 at 11:59 PM (ET);

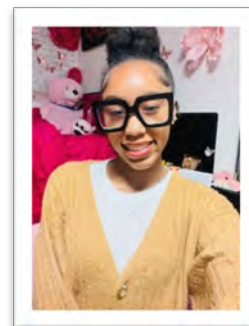
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Janiah M. Collier received the **Ronald K. Thomsen Memorial Scholarship Award** in 2024. She is a freshman at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia majoring in Biology, minor in Art.

Thank you, 1600 Communications Foundation for your generosity--it has inspired me to work hard. I maintained a 3.75 GPA through my first semester despite a rigorous workload in the Githii Honors Program. On March 28, 2025, I was inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society. And as a second chair alto in the Glee Club, with my Spelman sisters, I had the privilege of singing "America, the Beautiful" live at the 2025 College Football Playoff National Championship game. Again, thank you for investing in my future.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Janiah

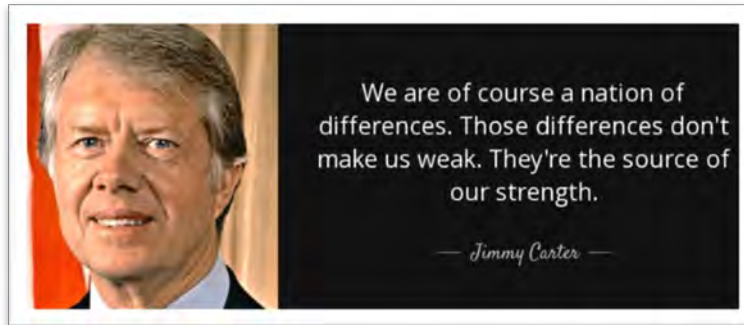


REMEMBERING PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER



The Honorable
James Earl Carter, Jr.
October 1, 1924 – December 29, 2024
39th President of the
United States of America





On January 9, 2025, the country paused to honor the life and legacy of our 39th President. Several of our members and other WHCA alumni have posted on social media to share how President Jimmy Carter's time in the White House was marked by quiet strength and moral leadership. Consistently, he was regarded as an extraordinary man of character—treating every member of his team—from senior staff to support personnel—with kindness and respect. President Carter's life was a testament to service. Beyond his presidency, he remained a statesman, a teacher, and a moral compass.

The President left a lasting impression that many WHCA alumni carry to this day. Many of whom traveled to Plains, Georgia year after year—as communicators, technicians, and stewards of presidential history—they will continue to tell his story.

Our thoughts are with the Carter family and all those whose lives were touched directly by him. Thank you, Mr. President—for your service and the enduring faith in the promise of America.

The Members of the 1600 Communications Association

Photo Credits

Page 10 Air Force District of Washington, the Encyclopedia Britannica, NBC News, Public Broadcasting Service, Reuters, WHCA Facebook Page.

Page 11: AZQuotes



LEGACY OF WHCA SENIOR ENLISTED LEADERS

James P. Regan (USA)

1985 – 1988

Robert R. Mix (USAF)

1988 – 1993

Thomas W. Coles (USA)

1993 – 1999

Raymond E. Hyrnko (USA)

1999 – 2002

Samuel P. Watkins (USA)

2002 – 2005

Rickey Witcher (USA)

2005 – 2007

Gerald W. Williams (USA)

2007 – 2010

Willie C. Clemmons (USA)

2010 – 2013

Nathaniel J. Jett (USA)

2013 - 2015

Lorenzo L. Lewis (USA)

2015 – 2018

Timothy A. Lehman (USA)

2018 – 2020

Sean P. Mitcham (USA)

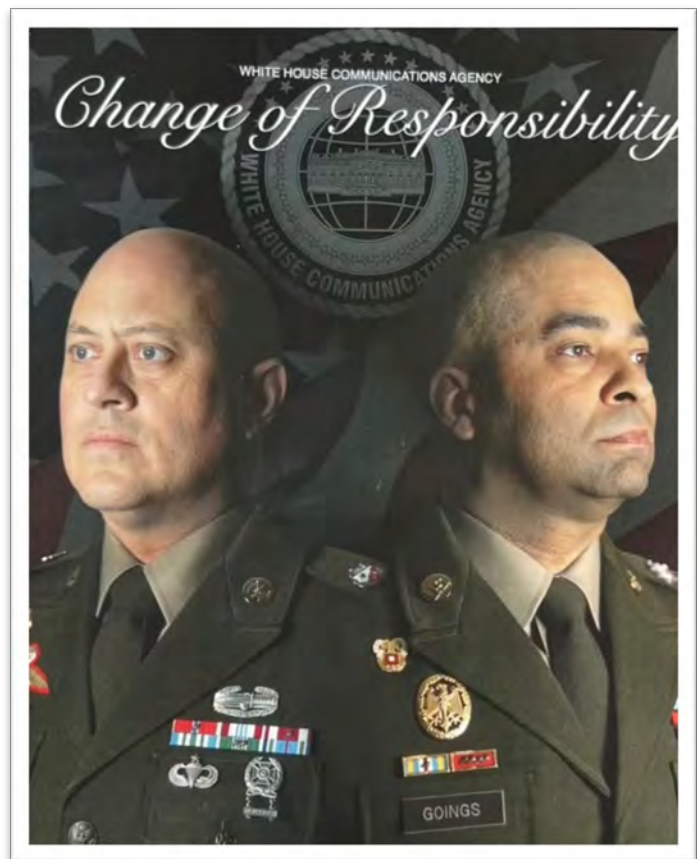
2020 – 2024

Christopher Goings (USA)

2024 - Present

On **November 9, 2024**, Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Sean Mitcham relinquished responsibility to WHCA alumnus Command Sergeant Major Christopher M. Goings as the Thirteenth Senior Enlisted Leader of the Agency.

Congratulations to CSM Mitcham on his recent retirement. Welcome back to CSM Goings and his family.



WHCA ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

MARCH 28, 2025



35
YEARS

YEARS

WHCA held its 35th Annual Awards Ceremony on March 28, 2025 at the Bolling Club, Joint Base Anacostia Bolling, Washington, DC. COL Brian M. Jorgenson and CSM Christopher M. Goings honored Service members and government civilians for their exceptional achievement supporting the President of the United States, Vice President, and others as directed by the White House Military Office.

- **2024 All-Stars** – 53 recipients
- **2024 Annual Awards** presented to the **Junior Enlisted Service Member of the Year**, **Noncommissioned Officer of the Year**, **Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year**, **Company Grade Officer of the Year**, **Junior Civilian of the Year**, and **Senior Civilian of the Year**
- **2024 Hall of Fame** – 3 recipients
Major Charito Corvin – Former Commander, VIC
WO1 Jacob Pinkston – Former POTUS Second Residence Lead
CPO Faye Granger – Former VPOTUS Communications Lead



WHCA Alumni, CW5 Danny D. Burns
Guest Speaker

2024 CSM Rickey Witcher Leadership Awardee

1SG Brandon Boyd,
Engineering Support Division



L-R: COL Jorgenson (WHCA Commander),
1SG Boyd, and CSM Goings (WHCA CSM)



WHCA ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY (continued)

MARCH 28, 2025



Rob Blake, the President of the 1600 Communications Association presented each 2024 Annual Awards and Hall of Fame recipient an Association challenge coin and certificate commemorating their outstanding achievement. Again, congratulations to our future alumnus!



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

FAYE GRANGER, CHIEF PETTY OFFICER
U.S. Navy, Retired



2024 WHCA HALL OF FAME



Faye Granger distinguished herself by exceptionally meritorious service as an Operations Noncommissioned Officer, Vice Presidential Communications Lead, Vice Presidential Emergency Response Officer from December 1986 to May 1995. During this period, she was selected as a WHCA All Star. Working initially in the Plans Division and then moving to the Operations, she was a Presidential and Vice Presidential Deployment Operations Coordinator and one of three senior Noncommissioned Officers that traveled as the WHCA



Rob Blake, Assoc Pres, receives the 2024 HOF award on behalf of Faye.

Representative on Air Force Two. She executed site surveys, making on-the-spot corrections and recommendations at 29 sites worldwide. After dozens of deployments, Faye was personally thanked by the Vice President for her leadership. She revamped the deployment requirements to account for the gap in obtaining critical information and changed equipment making the inventory and cross checks 50-percent faster. During the First Lady's historic visit to Southwest Asia, Faye coordinated the deployment of eight communication teams, her staff and the United States Secret Service during the historic visit to Southwest Asia. Faye interfaced with seven host countries, embassies and the Department of State during the pre-advance and while traveling onboard the First Lady's aircraft as the WHCA Representative—an Agency first. **CONGRATULATIONS FAYE** on your induction into the **WHCA Hall of Fame (HOF)—2024!**



WHITE HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY CHANGE *of* COMMAND



COL Brian Jorgenson
OUTGOING



MAY 30, 2025



Col Kevin Childs
INCOMING



More information and RSVP link coming soon...

WHCA COMMANDERS THROUGH THE YEARS

"THE VOICE OF THE PRESIDENT"



COMMANDER	RANK	YEARS	COMMANDER	RANK	YEARS
George J. McNally	COL, USA	1946-1965	Kenneth Campbell	Col, USAF	1998-1999
Jack A. Albright	BG, USA	1965-1969	Dennis C. Moran	BG, USA	1999-2000
Albert Redman, Jr.	BG, USA	1969-1973	Margaret K. Baldwin	Col, USAF	2000-2001
Lawrence E. Adams	BG, USA	1973-1975	Michael D. McDonald	Col, USAF	2001-2004
Leonard J. Riley	BG, USA	1975-1977	Howard I. Cohen	COL, USA	2004-2006
Robert F. Feeley	COL, USA	1977	James A. Lien	COL USA	2006-2009
Edwin Cantrell III	Col, USAF	1977-1978	Michael B. Black	Col, USAF	2009-2011
Josiah Blasingame, Jr.	BG, USA	1978-1981	Clinton R. Bigger	COL, USA	2011-2013
Henry J. Schumacher	MG, USA	1981-1982	Donovan L. Routsis	Col, USAF	2013-2015
John S. Tuck	BG, USA	1982-1984	Cleophus Thomas, Jr.	COL, USA	2015-2016
Lawrence J. Schumann	COL, USA	1984-1985	Chad D. Raduege	Col, USAF	2016-2018
William V. Bogart	COL, USA	1985-1988	James F. Riley	COL, USA	2018-2021
Kenneth E. Nickel	Col, USAF	1988-1992	Joy M. Kaczor	Col, USAF	2021-2023
Thomas J. Hawes	COL, USA	1992-1994	Brian M. Jorgenson	COL, USA	2023 - Present
Joseph J. Simmons IV	COL, USA	1994-1998		<i>COL, USA</i>	<i>May 30, 2025</i>



COL GEORGE J. McNALLY

First Commander, White House Army Signal Agency from March 1946 to May 1965. Assumed role directly after World War II and after serving as a member of the Secret Service.



BG JACK ALBRIGHT

Obtained the highest rank of Army Major General. Served as the second WHCA Commander under Presidents Johnson and Nixon from May 1965 to June 1969.



Current Situation

THE GOVERNOR vs. THE MAYOR

Photos from WHCA Facebook



No WHCA alumni event would be complete without a visit from the Agency's unofficial "governor" and "mayor," who seem to have made it a personal mission to track down every former member within a 50-mile radius for a photo op, and proudly post it faster than you can say "WHCA!" If you are visiting the District or receiving a special recognition, let former WHCA Commander, **Col Mike Black (USAF, Ret.)** and the former WHCA J1 SEA, **SGM Lionel "Scat" Scatliffe (USA, Ret.)** know so you can get your certified alum selfie.

ALUMNI MEET-UP
MAY 17, 2025 – DC NATIONAL HARBOR



WHITE HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY
ALUMNI MEET-UP

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025 AT 4:00 PM

LOCATION:

HARBOR SOCIAL

(downstairs)

Gaylord National Resort &
Convention Center
201 Waterfront Street
National Harbor, Maryland

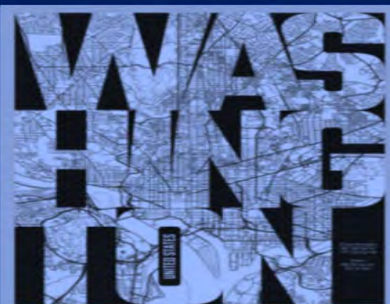


2025 WHCA DC-GETTYSBURG-BALTIMORE REUNION

JUNE 22 – 27, 2025



REGISTRATION DEADLINE – MAY 19, 2025



GETTYSBURG



JUNE 22 – 27, 2025

YOU ARE INVITED TO ALL EVENTS—PICK A DAY OR LOCATION

Gettysburg – June 22-24, 2025 • Baltimore – June 25, 2025 • Washington, DC – June 26-27, 2025

POINT OF CONTACT: MIKE EBBING at mike_ebbing@hotmail.com

For info and updates, visit the **WHCA DC/Gettysburg 2025 Reunion** Facebook page at
<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/15LHGDQarS/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

WEEK ITINERARY

GETTYSBURG	BALTIMORE	WASHINGTON DC
(JUNE 22-24, 2025)	(JUNE 25, 2025)	(JUNE 26-27, 2025)
6/22 Arrival and Informal Gathering at the Home of Hosts 6/23 -Welcome Breakfast hosted by The City of Gettysburg -Tour of Battlefield, Museum, and Eisenhower Farm -General Session with Speakers 6/24 -General Session with Speakers - Gettysburg Picnic	Full Day -Lunch with Speakers in Camden Yards near Oriole Park -Tour of Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum -Picnic Perch BBQ in Oriole Park -Orioles vs Texas Rangers Baseball Game (includes Ticket) *WHCA featured in the first-pitch ceremony	6/26 -10am – 3pm: WHCA HQ Tour -“Wheels Up Farewell Celebration” Dinner and Program at Busboys & Poets in Anacostia 6/27 -Special VIP Morning Tour of the White House East Wing -1pm – 4pm: Special VIP Tour of the People’s House with Speakers or -Annual 1600 Communications Foundation Golf Outing



WHITE HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY
ALUMNI DAY
Tour the Headquarters

"Reconnect, Reminisce, Reunite!"



Thursday,
JUNE 26, 2025
at
TBD (9AM to 1PM)



**More info to RSVP and about other
events coming soon**



**WHCA
COMMAND GROUP
invites...**

**Past WHCA members
and their families to
attend mission briefs
and HQ tours.**

2025 ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

JUNE 27, 2025



OLD HICKORY GOLF CLUB,
11921 Chanceford Drive, Woodbridge, VA
<https://www.golfoldhickory.com/>



If you have questions, please contact **STEVE CROWDER** at stevedc63@gmail.com

THE 1600 COMMUNICATIONS FOUNDATION PRESENTS

TEE OFF
—FOR A CAUSE

GOLF OUTING

REGISTRATION FEE REQUIRED

(See next page)

PRIZES FOR:

- HOLE-IN-ONE CHALLENGE
- LONGEST DRIVE AND CLOSEST TO THE PIN CONTEST

FRIDAY

JUNE 27, 2025

Registration starts at
07:00 AM



1600 Communications Foundation 2025 Annual Golf Outing Registration

Proceeds benefit the Association Scholarship Fund and Military Charities

Come join us for our 31st annual golf outing at Old Hickory Golf Course, 11921 Chanceford Dr, Woodbridge, VA 22192, on Friday, June 27, 2025. Shotgun start at 0900, **registration begins at 0700 and closes at 0830**. The Tournament is being sponsored by the 1600 Communications Foundation. The Foundation is the charitable arm of the 1600 Communications Association and has been incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia as a 501c3 non-profit organization. If you are interested in tax deductible sponsorship or prize donation opportunities (see the next page) or contact Glenn Arnett, **garnett2@cox.net**, (571) 436-3271 or Steve Crowder, **stevedc63@gmail.com**, (703) 795-1533 for more information.

Format is four player teams, Captain's choice, best ball. Full tournament rules will be provided at the course. Prizes will be awarded for First and Second place Per Flight, and many individual prizes, including Longest Drive, and Closest to Pin, for both Men and Women. Hole in One prizes on all Par 3's.

Entry fees include golf, cart fees, range balls, on-line team photos, and post-round buffet meal.
Fees are as follows:

▪ Active Duty Players: **\$100.00**

▪ All Other Players: **\$140.00**

For more information, contact Glenn Arnett at garnett2@cox.net, Phone (571) 436-3271, Steve Crowder, stevedc63@gmail.com, (703) 795-1533 or Gordon Aitken gaitken@verizon.net, phone (703) 864-3740.

Information is also available on the new 1600 Communications Foundation website, www.1600commfoundation.org, and the 1600 Comm Association Facebook page.

Make checks payable to 1600 Communications Foundation. Please send entry forms and payment to Glenn Arnett, at 128 Atlantis Lane, Lake Frederick, VA 22630-2099.

To utilize PayPal, go to www.1600commfoundation.org , click on PayPal button and follow instructions.
If using PayPal, you may email your entry form to garnett2@cox.net

ENTRIES MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENT AND RECEIVED BY **June 13, 2025.**
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.

(Please print: OK to add a supplemental page if needed)

GOLFER NAMES	MILSTAT (Active: Y/N)	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS



1600 Communications Foundation

Request for Sponsors and Donors for the 2025 Annual Golf Outing

Proceeds benefit the Association Scholarship Fund and Military Charities

THE WHAT: Annually, the 1600 Communications Association organizes and sponsors the 1600 Communications Foundation golf tournament.

- The Foundation is the charitable arm of the Association and has been incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia as a 501c3 non-profit organization.

THE ASK: We are seeking sponsors and donors of this year's event.

THE WHY: Proceeds from the golf tournament go towards our **Scholarship Fund** and to support **various veteran related charities**, including donations to the Fisher House Foundation and Homes for our Troops.

- Over the last 10 years, the Association has awarded more than \$110,000.00 in scholarships to members and their families, and over \$20,000.00 to military service member support organizations.

BENEFITS: Contributions and sponsorships made to the Foundation for the Golf Tournament by individuals or corporate entities including merchandise donations are tax deductible on federal and state taxes. All sponsors will be provided the Foundation tax ID.

- Gain positive business exposure across the military, veteran, Government civilian, and contractor communities.

Any questions can be directed to either Steve Crowder at stevedc63@gmail.com, Gordon Aitken gaitken@verizon.net, or Glenn Arnett, at garnett2@cox.net.



SEEKING SPONSORS

1600 COMMUNICATIONS FOUNDATION 2025 GOLF SPONSOR/DONOR LEVELS

BUSINESS OR INDIVIDUAL

PLATINUM SPONSOR FOR MEALS - \$4,000



Includes:

- Four players' fees paid.
- VIP access to all team games and day of events.
- All benefits of the **GOLD** Sponsorship Level (except items with (*)).

GOLD SPONSOR FOR HOLE-IN-ONE - \$650 (3 AVAILABLE)

Includes:

- One player's fees paid for each sponsor.*
- Signage on the tee box of the sponsored hole.*
- All benefits of **SILVER** Sponsorship.



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Includes:

- One player's fees paid for each sponsor of the longest drive, closest to the pin, men and women contests.
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MERCHANDISE & RAFFLE DONORS - Not Specified

Merchandise accepted such as golf balls, towels, and giveaways with company logos. Donations for **raffle prizes, awards, and contests** are welcomed, including putters, drivers, etc.



Donors' name posted on 1600 Comms websites and presentation of an Association President's "Certificate of Appreciation."

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AUGUST 14 - 17, 2025



AUGUST 14 – 17

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WHCA THROWBACK: TELEPHONE SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN

by Kenneth W. Barbi kenbarbi@verizon.net (WHCA Trip Officer 1983 - 1986)



SECURE VOICE

The White House Communications Agency (WHCA) provided secure voice telephone support on the 18 Acre White House Grounds, and at all Trip Sites for President Reagan. We came a long way since the World War II **SIGSALY** Secure Digital Voice System used by President Roosevelt (Figure 1). The **STU-I** (Figures 2 and 3) we used in 1984 was cumbersome. A STU-I used data transfer speeds of 2400 to 4800 BPS over standard dial-up telephone lines, cost \$35,000 per set, and had a weight of 250 pounds.

Washington secure phones and trip site secure phones would connect directly through standard analog telephone lines to our secure switch for calls. We did not have multiple trip site STU-I phones because there was only one unit deployed on each trip.



Figure 2. STU - I Instrument
Photo from the Crypto Museum

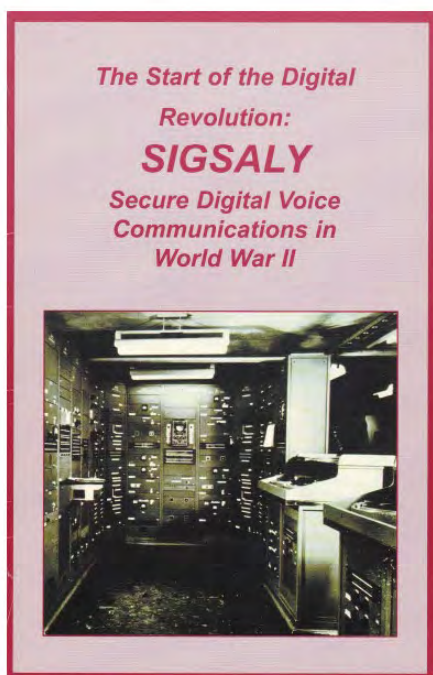


Figure 1. World War II SIGSALY Digital Secure Voice
Photo from National Security Agency (NSA) Handout



Figure 3. STU - I Hardware with Instrument
On Top of Cabinet
Photo from the Crypto Museum

TELEPHONE SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN (continued)



By 1986, we were using the new STU-III phones (Figures 4 and 5). They came in two colors - white and black. WHCA personnel had them in their homes with a White House security key for their work. Both styles encoded voice into analog signals for transmission over copper wire on standard dial-up telephone lines. The STU-III was very easy to install anywhere where there was a standard telephone line.



Figure 4. STU - III Phone
Photo from the Crypto Museum



Figure 5. President Reagan on a STU - III Phone
Official White House Photo



CELLULAR PHONES

The only cellular phones at WHCA in the 1980's were the Motorola "Get Smart shoe size" DynaTAC 8000X phones (Figure 6) used as part of the original cellular feasibility study. There was only service in Washington, and WHCA participated in that feasibility study. They never had a Presidential support role. At the time, it was believed cellular phones were not reliable (having a 30 minute talk time and 10 hour recharge time), and not secure. Cellular phones remained that way for some time, but thankfully are now secure and reliable.



Figure 6. Original Motorola DynaTAC 8000X Cell Phone

PAGING SYSTEM

In town and on the road, WHCA had a Motorola Paging System located at the Old Executive Office Building (EOB) Switchboard and at the Trip Site Hotel Command Post. Both White House and WHCA Staff members were assigned a Motorola Pageboy II Pager (Figure 7). The system worked very well although women had difficulty wearing the devices, as their clothing styles generally had no belts to clip them on, and they often fell from where they were clipped.



Figure 7. Motorola Pageboy II Pager



NON-SECURE VOICE

In the 1980's, our primary voice communications was non-secure analog voice over the same copper wire standard dial-up telephone lines we used for secure voice.

At the White House, there were two switchboards. One was run by White House civilian staff operators for the public to call. The other was the **WHCA "Signal Board"** for official use and for foreign governments to use to get in touch with the principals. This latter facility (referred to as **CROWN**) was also the White House VHF, UHF, Nationwide, and the Motorola Paging System main control. Nationwide was a UHF CONUS full duplex Air/Ground radio connection to Air Force One operated by WHCA, and supported by AT&T ground radios throughout the United States. It operated on 415.7/407.85 MHz and was code named "Echo Foxtrot". The Chesapeake & Potomac (C&P) Telephone company had a Number 5 Crossbar Switch (Figure 8) in the basement of the Old EOB next to the WHCA switchboard operator's room which provided phone service to all offices on the 18 Acre White House Complex - - our personal Centrex. The Signal Board was a bank of "cord boards" where our operators knew at all times where the President was (and what phone to forward calls to) after they VETTED the caller.



Figure 8. C&P Number 5 Crossbar Switch



President Reagan never dialed a single number. If he picked up the phone to call someone, our operators always answered by saying "yes please" because he might have been on a different phone or it might have been someone else, so they always wanted to be polite. He might ask to speak to an old college buddy - John Smith - who he had never called before. Through some sort of magic, our operators would figure out who John Smith was, where he was, his phone number, and get him on the line!

When wife, Nancy, called, it went right through. If any foreign leader or head of state called, it went right through, albeit a bit slower, because those kind of calls got allot of senior staff attention. An interesting event occurred once when I was out of town. My wife called the Signal Board and asked to talk to me because our cat was stuck atop a tree in Annapolis, Maryland, where I lived. The Signal Board operator immediately found me in Santa Barbara, California, and routed the call to me to help her - - **WHCA is a family!**

At Trip Sites, before the AT&T divestiture, things were easy because our AT&T representative would deal with all the individual companies. We had an AT&T Washington Headquarters representative travel with us on trips. Our central command post hub was a portable leased Dimension PBX (Figure 9) that was set up in a bedroom at the hotel where the White House Staff, Secret Service, WHCA, and the President stayed.



Figure 9. AT&T Dimension PBX



Setting up voice communications became trickier after the divestiture or if we were overseas. US Telephone Company (Telco) contacts were identified to us in Washington before we left. The regional Telcos were used to our needs, but foreign telephone providers (often official government entities) were amazed at what we required.

In our hotel bedroom Command Post next to our Secure Communications Center, we had the trip city VHF radio command console, connected by Telco dry-pair copper to all the repeaters our radio teams had set up. Dry-pairs are just wires with no battery and ground applied from the Telco central office. By 1985, everybody carried a Motorola Digital Encryption Standard (DES) secure VHF radio connected to their appropriate functional network. Prior to that, our radio nets were not secure which the press loved. The press was really upset when we added the DES.

The Dimension Trip Site Switchboard would have one local published number with multiple central office trunk lines, one non-published number for emergency use (which Trip Officers could connect remotely from any phone such as a public coin-operated or private phone by dialing our access code to get full telephone connectivity for the President), trunk tie lines to other Trip Sites if it was a regional swing, and numerous trunk tie lines back to Washington.

To call a Trip Site Extension, you would dial the three digit number. To call a Washington Extension you would dial 45 - wait for a dial tone - then dial your number. To call the White House Signal Switchboard, you would dial 8. To call a local number, you would dial 9 - wait for a dial tone - then dial. For long distance or the Trip Site Switchboard, you would dial 0.

Beyond that, Telephone Companies had their hands full. We ordered dedicated analog dry-pair circuits from the Dimension Trip Site Switchboard to every phone we wanted in town. Most trips had over 100 lines. The Dimension provided the battery and ground to operate these instruments. There were many phone lines to the airport for Air Force One's arrival, emergency medical facilities where the President might have to be taken, event sites, holding rooms, under bleacher seats at sports venues, Marine One landing locations, White House Staff/Secret Service Agent/WHCA Personnel hotel rooms, event halls, and McDonald's Restaurants (if the President planned to eat a Big Mac).

TELEPHONE SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN (continued)



Western Electric 500 Series phones (Figure 10) were installed. It was a large grid of copper connected spoke and hub, which usually took a week or more to set up. Every line had to be tested, and have a phone plugged into it. After the trip, we had to go out and reclaim every one of the phones. Woe to someone who absconded with a WHCA phone.



Figure 10. Western Electric 500 Series WHCA Telephone with Appropriate

Labels shown in Figure 12 at a Parsippany, NJ, Trip Site

We carried roles of labels (Figure 12) to affix to phones.



Figure 12. Roles of Labels for Any Occasion

We had what many called a Bluff Label (shown in a role at the bottom right of the above stack) (Figure 13) to discourage theft which did reduce our losses!

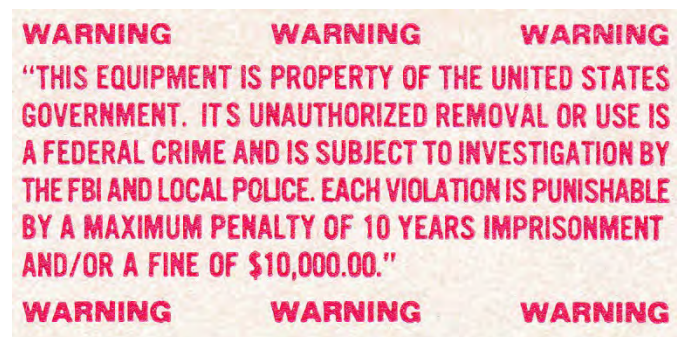


Figure 13. Bluff Label

Occasionally, we would have to commandeer a public coin-operated or private phone to establish a connection to the Dimension Trip Site Switchboard for the President should he stop somewhere unexpectedly. We placed this label (Figure 11) on the phone to protect it from getting hung up, and left it off-hook lying there ready for use.

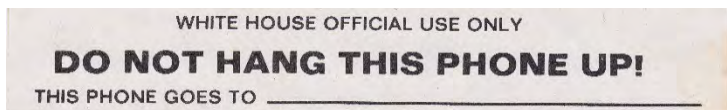


Figure 11. DO NOT HANG UP LABEL from a Trip Officer Trip Book



AIR FORCE ONE TELEPHONE SERVICE

Air Force One is operated by the 89th Airlift Wing of the United States Air Force at Joint Base Andrews. Whenever Air Force One landed, the plane - then a VC-137C Boeing 707-353B tail number 27000 - was met by a WHCA Trip Officer. The Trip Officer would plug two land lines (always Extension 201 and 202 connected to the Dimension Trip Site Switchboard) into a small compartment under the cockpit in front of the wheel well of the plane. This was a job I did many times as depicted in Figure 14. The President's pilot, USAF Col Robert Ruddick, never wanted a "follow me" truck to meet him at airports. He was pre-briefed and knew exactly where to taxi to his precise parking spot. That's where a Trip Officer would stand (the target perhaps) with the plane coming straight at them ready to plug it into the Dimension Trip Site Switchboard. **No one ever got run over!**



Figure 14. Major Barbi Plugging AF One Immediately After Landing in Cincinnati, Ohio, in Oct 1985

TELEPHONE SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN (continued)



The Telco responsible for the lines had to use a then standard Four-Prong Connector (Figure 15) that fit the planes. The Trip Officer had to make sure it was wired correctly (with no tip/ring reversal), and the lines were in the correct order on the pins. We always carried spare Four-Prong Connectors just in case the Telco didn't have the correct plug. It was especially important on overseas trips where they didn't exist.



Figure 15. Four-Prong Two Circuit Phone Plug

The two phone lines would be connected to the on-board communications center (Figure 16) operated by Air Force personnel and made available to everyone on the plane. CMSgt Jimmy Bull and SMSgt Jerry Rankin were President Reagan's operators. Those local "land lines" were a real savior on many occasions for Air Force One according to crew members.



Figure 16. President Reagan Visiting the AF One Communications Center with Operators CMSgt Jimmy Bull (left) and SMSgt Jerry Rankin (right) Official White House Photo



CONCLUSION

The telephone element of a Trip Site puzzle was a small piece of the action. Our gear load filled a C-141 aircraft and took 50 or more WHCA troops to implement. It still does today and is a marvel to see. I hope more WHCA personnel will write about their experiences in future postings.

*Ken Barbi is an Electrical Engineer and radio amateur **KC3OYM** who graduated from the City College of New York in 1968. He received his commission in the Air Force in 1968 and came to WHCA in 1983 as an Air Force Major. He served as a Plans Officer while in town, and as a Trip Officer on the road. In the Plans Office, he acquired new Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS) Satellite Terminals and was the first to establish commercial Ku-Band satellite support for the President. He retired after 26 years in the Air Force as a Colonel from the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), and now (as when assigned to WHCA) lives in Annapolis, Maryland.*



WHCA CAREER COORDINATION PROGRAM

This Program is designed to support the professional development and career progression of WHCA's military, and entry and mid-level civilian personnel. Through a structured approach, alumni offer tailored guidance, mentorship, networking, and resources to help WHCA members navigate career opportunities while in uniform preparing to transition to civilian life.

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**Kathy Simmons, USA Retired,
Senior Noncommissioned Officer**

After working with the **Alumni Career Coordination Team**, I was able to clearly articulate a future vision for myself and define my priorities to achieve a greater work/life balance. Their coaching could not have come at a better time, as I retired after 20.5 years of military service and transition into the civilian workforce. Their unique insight and attention to the not so obvious, provided me with a new perspective and has taken my potential to the next level. I am blessed that our paths have crossed. They are indeed the exception.

**Bernard Simmons, USA Retired,
Chief Warrant Officer**

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Co-founder and CEO of Verium, LLC. Rob is a 10-year U.S. Air Force veteran who served in WHCA from 1996 to 2001. He provides a wide variety of information technology (IT) services across the national security community.

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Senior Master Sergeant, U.S. Air Force Retired. Glenn served in WHCA from 1976 to 1991 in what is now the Visual Information Command; J3, Training Division; and a Vice Presidential Communications Officer (VPCO) supporting multiple administrations.

Danny Young – Member at Large

U.S. Army Retired, Danny has served in WHCA for more than 17 years in the White House Switchboard. He performed duties as the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the Carswell Communications Support Team; VPCO; and Vice Presidential Communications Response Officer (VPCRO).

Darrell Williams, MCLC, MBA - Alumni Career Coordinator

U.S. Army Retired. Darrell served in WHCA from 1990 to 1997 and from 1998 to 2005 as an Operations NCO, VPCO, and VPCRO. From 2005 to 2010, he worked at the WHCA Training Academy. Darrell was selected as NCO of the Year on several occasions, a WHCA All-Star, and Agency Senior NCO of the Year. He was inducted into the WHCA Hall of Fame in 2021.

Steve Crowder - Golf Tournament Coordinator

U.S. Air Force Retired. Steve served in WHCA from 1990 to 2001 in the Transmissions Systems Unit as the NCOIC of the SATCOM Shop and the NCOIC of Training. As a fully qualified Wideband Lead he traveled globally supporting Presidents George H. W. Bush, Clinton, and George W. Bush. Steve also served four years in the White House Situation Room.



Mike Millward - Vice President

U.S. Army Retired. Mike served in WHCA from 2006 to 2012 as an Operations Officer; Director, Network Systems Division; Commander, 1st Presidential Communications Command; and fully qualified Presidential Communications Officer (PCO) globally supporting Presidents George W. Bush and Obama.

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Co-founder and President of Verium, LLC. Jeff is a 10-year U.S. Navy veteran who served in WHCA from 1993 to 1997 in the Radio Systems Unit (RSU). He is a Lifetime Member and graduate of the Federal Executive Institute and the Metropolitan Police Academy.

Helen Pennington - Member at Large

Warrant Officer, U.S. Army Retired. Helen served in WHCA from 1989 to 1997 as Chief of the Emergency Actions Branch; Commander of the Training Communications Detachment; and PCO. She developed the first foundational travel team training courses for what is now the WHCA Training Academy.

Gordon Aitken - Historian

Gordon served in WHCA from 1977 to 1982 as the Chief of Record Communications, Chief of Voice Communications, and a Presidential Trip Officer. He held several positions on the Association Board since 1995, including President for four years. For the past 15-years, Gordon has chaired the Scholarship Committee.

Lee Hamilton, MBA, MA - Special Projects

U.S. Air Force Retired, Chief of Computer Maintenance. Lee served in WHCA from 2003 to 2004. He retired in California after teaching high school for 10-years and college for 20-years. Lee has a passion for the classroom and continues to serve as a high school substitute teacher for Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia.

Dr. Shantrell N. Collier, DBA – Director of Communications

Sergeant Major, U.S. Army Retired. Nikki served in WHCA from 2005 to 2012 in various leadership roles including the First Sergeant, 1st Presidential Communications Command, Acting J3 Sergeant Major, First Lady Communications Officer, and fully qualified VPCO. She was inducted into the WHCA Hall of Fame in 2013.



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