**Edward Augustus Rice, Jr. (1956)**

Edward (Ed) A. Rice, Jr. was born March 31, 1956 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.  Rice’s father was a career officer in the United States Air Force, which meant Rice’s early years we spent moving between several different Air Force base locations.  In the summer of 1967, the Rice family moved to Yellow Springs (Omar Circle) where Rice would spend the next seven years attending John Bryan Junior High School and Yellow Springs High School.  During his high school years, Rice was active in band and orchestra, lettered in football and track, and served as class president and student body president.  Upon graduation, he was selected for “Who’s Who Among American High School Students”, earned a National Achievement Scholarship to Stanford University, and an appointment from 7th District Congressman Clarence Brown to the United States Air Force Academy.

While at the Air Force Academy, Rice served in many key leadership positions, culminating in his selection during his senior year as the first African American in the school’s twenty-year history to be named the Cadet Wing Commander (leader of the 4,400 member student body).  Upon graduation, Rice earned Distinguished Graduate honors, was named to “Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities”, and completed the academic requirements for a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Sciences degree.

Rice’s next stop was a year in flight training school at Williams Air Force Base in Arizona where he was again named a Distinguished Graduate and earned the Military Training Award for his class.  This award goes to the student who displays outstanding potential for advancement and who best exemplifies the professional military officer.

Rice’s first operational Air Force assignment was to Loring Air Force Base in Maine where he served as a B-52 bomber copilot and aircraft commander.  During this four-year tour of duty he earned a position on the unit’s top combat crew and received several awards for airmanship.  Toward the end of this period, he attended the Air Forces Squadron Officer School where he was named a Distinguished Graduate and earned the Wing Individual Outstanding Achievement Award (top 15% of the Distinguished Graduates).

In 1984, Rice was transferred to the Pentagon where he completed a one-year management internship as the Assistant Deputy Chief, Executive Services Division.  In this capacity, he supervised administrative support functions for the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force Chief of Staff.

His next assignment was to Mather Air Force Base, California where he was a pioneer in enhancing the B-52’s combat capability through the employment of Night Vision Goggles.  Also during this tour, Rice served as the unit’s senior evaluator pilot and was it’s highest rated flight commander (responsible for the training and welfare of 36 other combat crew members).  In 1987 earned a Master of Aeronautical Science degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, was named one of the “Outstanding Young Men of America” by an affiliate of the Jaycees, and was promoted to the rank of major three years ahead of his contemporaries.

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In 1988, Rice attended the College of Naval Command and Staff at the Naval War College in Newport Rhode Island.  He graduated “With Highest Distinction” (top 5% of class) from this one-year course and earned a second master’s degree in National Security and Strategic Studies.  In 1989, Rice was selected for the rank of Lieutenant Colonel two years ahead of his contemporaries.

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Rice next returned to the Pentagon where he helped manage 30,000 Air Force pilots and navigators and in 1990 he was selected by the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships as a White House Fellow where he served on the immediate staff of the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

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After spending a year at K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base in Michigan where he implemented and directed the standardization and evaluation program for over 300 aircrew members, Rice moved to Castle Air Force Base in California where he commanded a B-52 bomber squadron and was selected for promotion to colonel two years ahead of his contemporaries.

In 1993, Rice was one of three Air Force officers selected for a Harvard National Security Fellowship at the John F. Kennedy School of Government.  This program consisted of accelerated research and study on foreign and defense policy and a wide range of prevailing national security issues.

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Following the fellowship, Rice served as a Professional Staff Member for the Commission on Roles and Missions of the Armed Forces.  The Commission was established by the National Defense Authorization Act of 1994 to provide an independent review of military roles and mission to Congress, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.  The Review produced over 150 recommendations for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Department of Defense in the post-Cold War era.

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Rice next returned to flying duties: first, as the deputy commander for B-2 bomber flying operations at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri, and then, as the commander for E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft at Tinker Air Force Base in Arizona.  During both of these assignments, Rice directed training development, strategy and tactics, plans, and intelligence for billions of dollars in Air Force resources.

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From 1997 to 1999, Rice served as the Deputy Executive Secretary for the National Security Council where he ensured the quality and content of all papers prepared for the President and National Security Advisor, coordinated policy formulation with the Council staff, and traveled with and briefed the President as the National Security Advisor’s representative.

During the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the United States, Rice was serving as the commander of a wing of B-1 bombers at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota.  Immediately after the attack, he was directed to temporarily transfer to the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean where is was in charge of all bomber operations (B-1, B-2, B-52) during the first four months of Operation Enduring Freedom (U.S. combat operations against the Taliban in Afghanistan).

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Upon being promoted to Brigadier General in 2002, Rice took command of the Air Force Recruiting Service where he was responsible for recruiting over 1,000 officers and 30,000 enlisted members for the Air Force and was also responsible for the Air Force’s marketing program.

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Rice next moved to the Asia-Pacific region for six years where he held a number of senior leadership positions culminating in a tour as the senior U.S. military commander in Japan.  During this time, he was promoted to Major General and Lieutenant General.

Rice’s final assignment in the Air Force was from 2010 to 2013 during which time he served as the Commander of Air Education and Training Command after being promoted to the rank of four star General on November 17, 2010.  In this capacity, he was responsible for the recruiting, training, and education of Air Force personnel. His command trained more than 293,000 students per year and consisted of 12 bases, more than 67,900 active-duty, Reserve, Guard, civilians and contractors, and 1,369 trainer, fighter and mobility aircraft.

After retiring from active duty on December 1, 2013, Rice became an independent consultant and served on numerous non-profit advisory boards.  On December 1, 2016, President Obama appointed Rice to the Air Force Academy Board of visitors for a three-year term.

Rice is married to the former Teresa Lynn Ford of Yellow Springs, Ohio and they have two children, Matthew and Kristen.

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*Source: Edward Augustus Rice, Jr., 2017*

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