



## BIOGRAPHY

### UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

#### RUBEN RIOS



Ruben Rios is the Director of Acquisition Career Management Directorate, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (SAF/AQH). Mr. Rios is responsible for the integrated management of the acquisition workforce across all functional areas. He provides acquisition human resources policy and strategic planning while managing the training and development of civilian and military acquisition personnel across the department's acquisition enterprise. Mr. Rios is also designated as the Career Field Manager for both military and civilian Scientists, Engineers, and Acquisition Program Managers. His team also provides personnel management services to the SAF/AQ Headquarters Staff and is the Department of the Air Force's Acquisition Demo Program Management Office.

Mr. Rios was an active-duty Air Force officer for 21 years, before retiring in 2010. He was commissioned through the Air Force ROTC program in 1988, after graduating with a bachelor's in mechanical engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. His career in the DAF includes assignments within various System Program Offices, executing the roles of ground systems engineer for the Defense Satellite Program Mobile Ground Terminal System, flight test director for the E-767 Japanese AWACS, and Chief of Modeling & Simulation/Test for the E-10A/MP-RTIP program. His operational assignments include weapons controller/director, and later, senior director with the 963rd Airborne Warning and Control System (E-3 AWACS) Squadron. During his tenure with the 963<sup>rd</sup>, he participated in the closing phase of Operation Desert Storm, as well as numerous other deployments supporting operations Southern/Northern Watch, Provide Comfort, and Uphold Democracy.

His staff assignments include tours at HQ PACAF, where he served as a Pol-Mil officer and as an Action Officer in PACAF's Commander's Action Group. He served various tours at Air Staff, including, Branch Chief for Financial Execution/Budgeting within the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition Integration (SAF/AQX) and Deputy Division Chief for Program Integration with the Global Power Directorate (SAF/AQP). While at Air Staff, he was deployed to Islamabad Pakistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and was the Chief of Staff for the Office of the U.S Defense Rep. to Pakistan. Upon his return from Pakistan, he was selected to command the 364th Air Force Recruiting Squadron. In 2009, he returned for a second assignment with Air Staff, and assumed the position of Dep Chief, Program Integration Div., of the Global Power Directorate (SAF/AQP) before retiring.

Upon retirement from the DAF in 2010, Mr. Rios worked in the private sector as a program manager and Deputy Group Leader with SPA Inc., where he oversaw various contract efforts providing acquisition support to several federal agencies. In 2014, Mr. Rios left the private sector and became a program manager within the NATO AWACS Program Management Agency, in the Netherlands, where he was responsible for modernizing the NATO E-3A (AWACS) fleet. Upon completion of his tenure with NATO in mid-2017, he returned to Washington DC and served as Chief, Program Integration Div. for the Global Power Programs Directorate (SAF/AQP). In 2021, Mr. Rios was selected to attend the Eisenhower School for National Security Strategy and Resourcing. After graduation from Eisenhower in 2022, he was assigned as the Deputy Group Leader for the Advance Combat Systems Group at the Department of the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office and later became the organization's Chief of Staff.

Mr. Rios is certified at the Advanced Level in the Program Management Functional Area.