



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

DR. SANDRA L. "SANDI" EDWARDS

Dr. Sandra L. Edwards is the Primary Advisor at the Air Force Negotiation Center, Maxwell AFB, Alabama. She provides senior-level guidance regarding organizational, educational, training, budget, procurement and contracting matters. She supports the Chief of Staff and the Office of the General Counsel by ensuring relevant education and training programs are designed, developed, and delivered to the Total Force community, DoD, federal and civilian agencies. She provides access to the knowledge and skills needed to effectively communicate, negotiate, and mediate in culturally complex environments.

Dr. Edwards' journey to Principal Advisor for the Air Force Negotiation Center began with the Air Force in 1982. During her active duty military career, she served at various locations. Her first duty assignment at Chanute AFB, Illinois. She also served in the Asian Pacific and in the European theater to include deployment to the Middle East. Upon her return stateside, she was assigned to the 375th Supply Squadron at Scott AFB, Illinois. During this assignment, she was appointed Supervisor of the Microcomputer Support Section. While still assigned to Scott AFB, Headquarters Standard Systems Group (SSG), Gunter AFB, AL submitted a by name request to have Sandra assigned to its organization. During her tour at SSG, Sandra acted as team lead in projects to develop procedures and conversion plans for software systems.



After eighteen plus years as a Supply Systems Analyst which helped cultivate Sandra's teaching abilities, she decided to formally develop these abilities at the Academic Instructor School (AIS), Maxwell AFB, Alabama. This teaching assignment opened doors for educating a broad range of people. As Seminar Commander, Sandra taught commissioned, noncommissioned, civilian, and international officers how to teach using education theory and presentation principles. As superintendent of Institutional Effectiveness, she ensured the school's effectiveness via analyzing, surveying, trending, and reporting assimilated data for use at Headquarters Air University.

Shortly after retirement from the United States Air Force, Sandra's yearning to teach reemerged. She joined the College for Enlisted Professional Military Education (CEPME – now known as the Thomas N. Barnes Center) as Director of Continuing Education and later served as the interim Director of Faculty Development for the Enlisted Professional Military Education Instructor Course (EPMEIC). Her expert skills in instructional systems development and faculty development combined with educating strategic level leaders brought her to the attention of senior leaders. In January 2013, Sandra received a by name request to serve at the Air Force Chief of Staff re-established Chief Master Sergeant Leadership Course (CLC). During this assignment, Sandra was given oversight concerning the standup of this revived entity which consisted of creating, designing, and developing all curriculum for this course as well as serving as mentor/facilitator for faculty and students. Her work in the professional military education (PME) community directly impacts countless Department of Defense members around the globe – even today.

During Sandra's work as Chief of Faculty & Staff Development at the Thomas N. Barnes Center, she created a Commander's Newcomers Orientation program, developed an onboarding/offboarding program, created a Faculty Scholarship Professional Development process, was hand-selected to serve on the Air Education & Training Command (AETC) competencies development cohort, appointed as a Barnes Center Commander strategic master plan affiliate, and created the first-ever virtual Chief Master Sergeants Spouses Orientation course. The latter work resulted in Sandra being coined by the 18th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force (CMSAF) Kaleth O. Wright.

EDUCATION

1995 Bachelor of Science, Computing & Information Science, McKendree College, Lebanon, Illinois
2003 Master of Arts, Teaching, Troy University, Troy, Alabama
2007 Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) Qualification Program, American Management Association, Atlanta Ga.
2008 The Art & Craft of Discussion Leadership, Harvard Business School, Boston, Mass.
2016 Doctor of Philosophy in Education, Instructional & Curriculum Leadership, Scottsdale, Arizona
2021 Difficult Conversations, Program on Negotiation Harvard Law School, Boston Mass.
2021 Negotiation & Leadership, Program on Negotiation Harvard Law School, Boston Mass.
2022 40-Hour Mediation Training, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Ala.
2022 40-Hour Mediation Skills Training, Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service, Dallas, Texas
2024 40-Hour Mediating the Litigated Case, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Malibu, CA

CAREER CHRONOLOGY

1. 2003, Retired US Air Force
2. April 2004 – September 2005, Project Manager/Planner, B3H Corporation, Inc., Maxwell AFB, Ala.
3. October 2005 – March 2011, Director of Continuing Education, EPMEIC, Gunter AFB, Ala.
4. April 2011 – December 2012, Interim Director, Enlisted Professional Military Instructor Course, Gunter AFB, Ala.
5. January 2013 – September 2014, Faculty & Curriculum Developer, CLC e-School, MAFB-Gunter Annex, Ala.
6. October 2014 – January 2019, Seminar Instructor, Faculty & Curriculum Development Leader, Chief Master Sergeant School/Academy, MAFB-Gunter Annex, Ala.
7. January 2019 – June 2020, Chief of Faculty & Staff Development/Institutional Research, Thomas N. Barnes Center, MAFB-Gunter Annex, Ala.
8. July 2020 – Present, Primary Advisor, Air Force Negotiation Center, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
9. July 2023 – Present, Air War College and Air Command & Staff College Electives Faculty Member, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2003 Certified Master Instructor, Academic Instructor School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
2010 Emotional Intelligence Learning Systems, Emotional Learning Systems Certification, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
2014 Certified Practitioner, Roll of Accredited Advanced Kirton-Adaption Innovation (KAI) Practitioners, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa.
2016 Certified Practitioner, Everything DiSC & Work of Leaders, Resources Unlimited, Chief Leadership Academy, Ala.

PUBLICATIONS

"How Adaption-Innovation Traits Impact Educational Outcomes", Northcentral University, ProQuest, Scottsdale, Ariz., January 2016
"Persuasion and Influence: Developing the Stealth Warrior", Journal of Military Conflict Transformation, Montgomery, Ala.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

AF Achievement Medal w/3 oak leaf cluster
AF Commendation Medal w/1 oak leaf cluster
Meritorious Service Medal w/1 oak leaf cluster
2015 Meritorious Civilian Service Award
2019 Meritorious Civilian Service Award
2019 Montgomery City of Refuge Visionary Award

(Current as of Oct 2024)