



# BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

## LESLIE W. RHODES, GS-11

Mr. Rhodes is an Instructional System Instructor currently working in the Faculty Development Continuation Section of the 81 Training Support Flight. Mr. Rhodes was born in Andalusia, Alabama, but later moved to Moss Point, Mississippi when he was a child. He graduated from Moss Point Central High School in 1969. That year he enrolled in the DeVry Institute of Technology in Pascagoula, Mississippi where he studied computer technology. During the spring semester, he was elected President of the Student Board of Trustees.

In 1970 he received his draft notice and joined the USAF. During his career, he worked as an Aircraft Avionics Technician, a Tech Controller, and finished his last 8 ½ years as a First Sergeant. He completed his military service and retired in 2000 after 29 years, 9 months and 1 day of service.

Mr. Rhodes became an instructor in 2001 and has taught in various areas of Keesler AFB. He started as an Avionics Communication and Navigation Systems instructor, then he was moved to the Electronic Fundamental course. In 2005 he moved to the Network Infrastructure course and then came back to the Electronics Fundamentals where he assisted in the transformation of the course to the Network Fundamentals course in 2010. He joined the staff of Faculty Development in January 2011 as the Technical Writer SME.



He worked on his education throughout his military career and completed his Doctorate of Philosophy in Biblical Studies in 2006. For over 45 years, Rev. Rhodes pastored churches during his military assignments and also served as a contracted chaplain during two of his assignments. For the past 14 years He has served as pastor of the Helena Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Rhodes is married to his high school sweetheart Deborah (Hyatt) Rhodes for almost 50 years. They have two children, 6 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

## EDUCATION

2000 Associate in Applied Science Degree, Avionics Maintenance Technology/Technician, Community College of the Air Force

2006 Doctorate of Philosophy – Biblical Studies, University of Birmingham

## CAREER CHRONOLOGY

1. November 1970 – Enlisted in the USAF
2. March 1971 – June 1971, Basic Electronics Course, Keesler Air Force Base, MS
3. July 1971 – December 1971, Avionics Instrumentation School, Chanute Air Force Base, IL
4. January 1972 – May 1972, Avionics Instrumentation Journeyman, MacDill Air Force Base, FL
5. May 1972 – May 1975, Avionics Instrumentation Journeyman, RAF Lakenheath, UK
6. June 1975 – January 1976, In-Shop Avionics Instrumentation Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC), George Air Force Base, CA
7. February 1976 – August 1979, Avionics Instrumentation NCOIC, NAS New Orleans, LA
8. September 1979 – December 1982, Tech Control NCOIC, Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center, MS
9. January 1983 – February 1986, Avionics Guidance and Control Systems NCOIC, Pope AFB, NC
10. February 1986 – February 1990, Avionics Guidance and Control Systems NCOIC, RAF Fairford, UK
11. February 1990 – March 1993, Avionics Guidance and Control Systems NCOIC, Minot AFB, ND
12. March 1993 – February 1994, First Sergeant, Minot AFB, ND
13. February 1994 – June 1997, First Sergeant, RAF Fairford & RAF Welford, UK

- 14. June 1997 – April 1998, First Sergeant. Keesler AFB, MS
- 14. June 1998 – September 2000 (Retirement), First Sergeant. Minot AFB, ND
- 15. September 2000 – August 2001, US Navy, Pascagoula, MS
- 16. August 2001 – Present – Instructor Keesler AFB, MS

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Meritorious Service Medal with three devices  
Air Force Commendation Medal with four devices  
Air Force Achievement Medal with four devices  
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with one device  
Navy Expeditionary Medal  
Combat Readiness Medal  
Air Force Good Conduct Medal with seven devices  
Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal  
National Defense Service Medal  
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal  
Humanitarian Service Medal  
Air Force Overseas Ribbon - Long Tour with three devices  
Air Force Longevity Service Award with seven devices  
Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon

## **OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS**

1993 First Sergeant of the Year, Minot AFB, ND  
2012 81 TRSS Civilian Instructor of the Year