

Michael B. Smith

Michael B. Smith has over thirty six years of leadership and management experience in state and federal government programs and services. He retired from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory after serving as a Senior Program Manager in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T). Trained and certified as a Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) Mike was the Senior Advisor to the DHS Under Secretary for S&T. He previously served as the Assistant Commissioner of the NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (a State sub-Cabinet position) managing Directors for all Departmental state and federal joint activities including personnel, budget, construction contracting and management, and government relations. His responsibilities also included direct coordination and oversight of NJ's Veterans Programs, Services, and Health Care Services. He earlier served as the Technical Advisor to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, leading activities and functions that included federal agency, DOT intermodal, industry, labor, special interest group, and foreign government issues. Mike managed the NJ Army National Guard's federal budget as the Financial Manager and Comptroller and concurrently, wrote three strategic plans as Chief of Strategic and Long-Range Planning for the NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Mike is FAA licensed as an instrument rated, single & multi-engine airplane and rotorcraft-helicopter, and commercial pilot.

He previously also directed the NJARNG's aviation, air and surface safety, OSHA compliance and occupational health programs where he managed flight operations, the proficiency training of more than 150 aviators and crew members, and the maintenance support for more than 50 helicopters and three airplanes.

Prior to his work in the public sector, Mike had twelve years of education experience, eight as a teacher/coordinator in Special Education Work Study programs, two years as a vice principal in a large elementary school (900+ students) and two years as a building Administrator (Principal) of a secondary school for emotionally disturbed students. In his capacity as a principal, he managed staff, student, and support service activities including state and federal entitlement program requirements. Mike is New Jersey State certified as a teacher, coordinator, and principal (K-12).

Mike retired as a Colonel from the New Jersey Army National Guard with over 35 years of service. During his career with the Guard, he commanded an Aviation Brigade, two Aviation Battalions, an Air Cavalry Troop, and an Armor (Tank) Company. He also served in multiple staff officer positions at Battalion, Brigade, Army Division, and State HQ levels to include the NJ State Army Aviation Officer and Comptroller of the NJARNG. Mike is qualified as a helicopter instructor pilot and multi-engine airplane pilot with over 6,000 accident/incident free flight hours.

He received his BA in History from Kean University, his MA in Special Education and Administration from Monmouth University, and Post Graduate Masters level courses in Education Administration and Supervision from Monmouth University. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army War College.

Mike lives in Titusville, NJ with his wife Joan.