

## Colonel John W. Shirley

Col John Shirley proudly served the USAF/55<sup>th</sup> Wing (WG) from 1993-2016 as 55<sup>th</sup> WG Intelligence/Information Integration Officer (IO/IIO); 97<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Squadron (IS) Flight Commander; 390<sup>th</sup> IS Operations (Ops) Officer; 25<sup>th</sup> IS Commander; and 361<sup>st</sup> Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Group Commander. He flew RC-135 RIVET JOINT (RJ)/COBRA BALL (CB)/COMBAT SENT (CS) missions, deploying to Al Udeid AB, Qatar as 763<sup>rd</sup> Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron (ERS) Ops Officer during OPERATIONS ENDURING/IRAQI FREEDOM, skillfully directing aircraft/aircrews amassing 1,400 combat hours with 200+ personal combat hours. At HQ USAF (HAF) Pentagon, Shirley was RC-135 Program Element Monitor (PEM) with \$4.2B appropriations ensuring fully funded 55<sup>th</sup> WG RC/WC/TC-135 fleets despite significant budget cuts. His involvement in the lauded US/UK Cooperative Agreement established the Royal Air Force's Airseeker program adding three RJs for worldwide ops. Retiring in 2016, Mr. Shirley continued 55<sup>th</sup> WG service as BIG SAFARI Program Management Office's (PMO) HQ ACC Senior Liaison executing the RC-135 enterprise. His Global Integrated ISR leadership restored \$19B into an RC-135 long-range plan to 2050--protecting the program from probable divestiture. Col John W. Shirley's professional career spans 30+ years of selfless national service establishing an enduring *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth!* legacy.