



MITCHELL INSTITUTE SENIOR FELLOW



Lt Col Michael A. Buck, USAF (Ret.), is a command pilot with more than 5,000 flight hours, retiring from the USAF as an F-15C squadron commander in April 2011. He is also an experienced F-16 Flight Lead and Instructor Pilot with a total of 2,700 flight hours in that aircraft, including 250 combat flight hours over Iraq during Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and IRAQI FREEDOM. He performed the Air Sovereignty Alert mission in both the F-16 and F-15 in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE at various locations across the U.S., and he served as the Air Sovereignty Alert Officer (Current Operations Directorate) on the staff of the Air National Guard Bureau. During his two assignments in Air Training Command Lt Col Buck flew 1,700 flight hours as a T-38 Instructor Pilot.

A graduate of The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, he also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from Valdosta State University, and a Master's degree in Aeronautical Science through Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

He currently flies for United Airlines as a Boeing 777 Flight Instructor and First Officer. Lt Col Buck serves as a Trustee of the Daedalian Foundation, which provides academic and flight training scholarships to encourage young Americans to pursue careers as military aviators.
