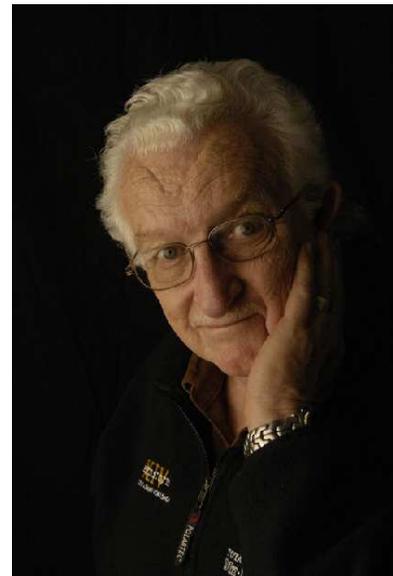


# Biography

## Kenneth Hackman

They call Ken Hackman “The Godfather” of military visual information. The first part of this distinguished title comes from his founding of the Air Force photojournalism program in 1971 and shaping it into what it is today. The rest of this enduring title comes from his ability to mentor young photographers, and give them the training and expertise they need to be successful.

Hackman’s love of photography propelled the Lancaster, Pa., native into an Air Force photography career at the age of 17. He left the service after his first enlistment, and then in 1960 he became an Air Force civil service photographer with the Aerospace Audiovisual Service, until his retirement in 1995.



His list of photos assignments is staggering and include covering the Vietnam War, summer Olympic games at Montreal, Los Angeles, Seoul, Barcelona and Atlanta and winter Olympic games at Lake Placid, Calgary and Lillehammer. In 1962 he photographed the final atmospheric atomic bomb testing in the Pacific, as well as humanitarian and news events around the world. Ken took the official photographs of Air Force One from 1975 to 2000 and most Air Force inventory aircraft from 1960 to 1995.

Hackman’s photographic and management achievements have been recognized by the National Press Photographers Association (NPPA) where he was given the 2013 Joseph A. Sprague award which is the highest honor in the field of photojournalism. He was included Kodak’s “Professional Photographer’s Showcase” award and received an honorary diploma from Syracuse University’s Photography Department. In 2002 he was selected as an adjunct professor for the Syracuse University “study abroad program” in London, England.

In June of 2011 he was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service for his years of coordinating, directing and conducting the Military Photographer of the Year (25 years) the Military Videographer of the Year (22 years) the Military Graphic Artist of Year (7 years) competitions and for Co-founding and serving as Director of the DoD Worldwide Military Photography workshop for 21 years.

Ken continues to mentor, coach, judge, teach, critique and advise Air Force photojournalists and Combat Camera photographers.