

Efficiency and Innovation



MICHAEL WARE

Department of
Information Technology,
Environmental Quality

A leader at the N.C. Department of Information Technology, Michael Ware serves as the Chief Information Officer for the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), managing all technological aspects within the department. With his extensive background in information technology, stemming from 24 years in the United States Airforce, followed by an enormously productive career with the State of North Carolina, he serves as a resourceful advocate for DEQ and its IT division.

Ware has shown exceptional leadership by introducing innovative business processes, performance enhancing cost-cutting measures, and a work culture that encourages staff to perform at a high level.

He successfully spearheaded an effort to implement a drone program within DEQ that has led to exponentially faster and cost-effective methods of collecting data in the field. In two years, under Ware's guidance, the drone program has grown to include 17 drones and 40 pilots.

Ware has executed a server migration plan, paired with cloud storage solutions, which not only exceeded the DEQ needs, but also significantly decreased the cost burden. As of February 2021, over 80 percent of the project has been completed, which is saving DEQ thousands of dollars monthly. Once fully implemented, the new solution will save DEQ upwards of \$75,000 monthly.



At the national level, Ware received an award from the National Association of Chief Information Officers for his development of the drone program. He has given remarks at multiple technology gatherings across the nation and is recognized as a trailblazer in the implementation of drone technology, to include policies, tracking mechanisms and compliance. Said his colleague Michael Griffin, "There are always a few that rise to the top and truly go above and beyond, and Mike Ware is one of them."