



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Colonel Stephen C. Pluntze

Colonel Stephen C. Pluntze is the Commander of the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program Systems Group (DMSG) at Los Angeles Air Force Base, California. DMSG is the DoD's sole operational weather satellite system. The \$3.5 billion system equips worldwide strategic and tactical forces with weather and space environmental data for planning and executing aerospace, ground and naval operations. Col Pluntze is directly responsible for the development, test, acquisition, and sustainment of these satellites, sensors, and ground systems to meet warfighter requirements.



The Colonel was born in Seattle, Washington, and raised in Washington State. He earned a bachelor's degree in Aeronautical Engineering as a distinguished graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1982. In 1987, the Colonel earned a master's degree in Aeronautical & Astronautical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was named a Draper Fellow. He received his doctorate from the University of Washington in 1997. His military education includes Air Command and Staff College, Air War College and is Level III in Systems Engineering as a member of the Acquisition Corps.

During his career he has been an intelligence analyst and branch chief, a flight test engineer and part of the test team which proved airborne GPS for the first time; an instructor pilot for Air Force Academy cadets and helped set up their current flying program; and an Academy instructor and associate professor. He has taught, flown, and set up curricula for USAF Test Pilot School. His previous assignment was as the Commander of the European Office of Aerospace Research and Development (EOARD), located in London, UK. EOARD is the European arm of the Air Force Research Lab (AFRL), which manages all technology for the Air Force. He is a licensed professional engineer in the state of Colorado.

EDUCATION:

1982 Distinguished Graduate USAF Academy, BS Aeronautical Engineering
1983 Squadron Officers School
1984 Systems 100
1986 Systems 200
1987 Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MS Aeronautical and Astronautical
Engineering, Draper Fellow
1988 Systems 400
1994 Air Command and Staff College
1997 University of Washington, PhD Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering
1999 Air War College

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. June 1982 – June 1985, Flight Test Engineer, F-16 Integrator, B-52 Integrator; GPS Joint Program Office, Space Division, LA AFS, Los Angeles, CA
2. July 1985 – January 1987, Masters Student, MIT, Boston, MA
3. January 1987 – October 1991, Branch Chief, Foreign Technology Division
4. October 1991 – July 1994, Assistant Professor, Department of Aeronautics, US Air Force Academy, CO
5. July 1994 – July 1997, PhD Student, AFIT Liaison Officer, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
6. July 1997 – July 1999, Division Chief, Aeronautics Department, USAF Academy, CO
7. July 1999 – June 2001, Deputy for Plans and Programs, Aeronautics Department, USAF Academy, CO and Associate Professor
8. June 2001 – June 2003, Deputy Department Head, Aeronautics Department, USAF Academy, CO
9. June 2003 – June 2005, Department Head, Aeronautics Department, USAF Academy, CO
10. June 2005 – July 2008, Commander, European Office of Aerospace Research and Development, London, UK
11. August 2008 – Present, Commander, Defense Meteorological Satellite Program Systems Group, Los Angeles AFB, CA

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

AF Achievement Medal, 1 OLC
AF Commendation Medal
AF Meritorious Service Medal, 3 OLC
Joint Meritorious Unit Citation

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

1 Lt 2 Jun 84
Capt 2 Jun 86
Maj 1 Jun 94
Lt Col 1 Dec 98
Col 1 Nov 04

(Current as of Feb 2009)