



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

DR. STEPHEN C. "STEVE" PLUNTZE

Dr. Steve Pluntze is the Executive Director and Civilian Deputy Director, Remote Sensing Directorate, Space and Missile Systems Center, Los Angeles, CA. His duties include assisting the Program Director in overseeing the development, deployment and sustainment of the nation's space based infrared detection, targeting and tracking systems, as well as sustaining and fielding affordable space and terrestrial weather systems. The space based infrared portfolio includes missile warning, missile defense, battlespace awareness and technical intelligence capabilities through the Defense Support Program and the Space Based Infrared System. The weather systems portfolio includes the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program and consists of atmospheric monitoring weather systems, space weather systems and ground sensors. These systems are critical for protection against global and theater threats against the United States, its deployed forces and its allies.



Previously, Dr. Pluntze was Director of the Defense Weather Directorate at SMC, which merged with the Remote Sensing Systems Directorate in 2014. He retired from active duty as a Colonel in 2011.

After retirement, Dr. Pluntze worked as Senior Scientist, Parsons Corp, El Segundo, CA. He served as program manager for the Parsons contract in SMC/EN, the SMC Engineering Directorate, and was assigned to roles in business development and proposal management. He moved from Parsons to Tecolote early in 2016 and then moved to government service in May, 2016. At Tecolote, he worked for the Director of MILSATCOM in planning the strategic direction of the MILSATCOM Directorate.

Dr. Pluntze graduated from the US Air Force Academy in 1982 with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering, and eventually returned there to teach Aeronautics and Mathematics during his career. After graduation, he was assigned to Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and flew B-52s and F-16s as a flight test engineer, mainly for the first installment of GPS in Air Force aircraft. He was on the launch team for two of the first GPS satellites.

After graduate school at MIT in Boston, Dr. Pluntze was assigned to Foreign Technology Division (now NASIC) at Wright Patterson AFB, where he performed classified deployments as part of the first Gulf War. He was a program manager for intelligence work on the (then) Advanced Tactical Fighter, which became the F-22. Following some classified work in the space mission area, he returned to graduate school at the University of Washington in Seattle for a doctorate in Aeronautics, specializing in computational fluid mechanics.

After serving at the Academy as program manager of the aeronautics laboratory and the Department Head for Aeronautics, he was assigned to London as the Commander of Air Force Research Lab's (AFRL) overseas detachments, where he again worked space issues, this time also in the international arena, in addition to the entire AFRL portfolio of Directed Energy, Human Factors, Materials, Chemistry, Biology, Electronics, Cyber, and Aeronautics.

His last assignment was as the Commander and later Director of Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP), where he launched the F-18 satellite and was responsible for transitioning DoD weather from NPOESS to its current posture.

EDUCATION

1982 Bachelor of Science, Aeronautical Engineering, US Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO

1987 Master of Science, Aero/Astro Engineering, MIT, Boston, MA

1997 PhD, Aero/Astro Engineering, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Senior Program Manager and Systems Engineering curriculum, US Air Force

CAREER CHRONOLOGY

1. Jun 82 – Jul 85, Flight Test Engineer and B-52/F-16 User Equipment Program Manager, Global Positioning Systems Directorate, Los Angeles Air Force Station, CA
2. Jul 85 – Jan 87, Masters Student, Thesis: *On the Parabolized Navier-Stokes Equations without Sublayer Assumptions*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, MA
3. Jan 87 – Jun 91, Intelligence Analyst, Future Foreign Air & Space Systems; Program Manager, HAVE SAM intelligence analysis contract, FTD, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH
4. Jun 91 – Jul 94, Instructor, Aeronautics and Mathematics; Adjunct Instructor Pilot, Soar-for-All, US Air Force Academy, CO
5. Jul 94 – Jun 97, Doctoral Student, Dissertation: *Reynolds Number Trends in Computational Solutions of Two-Dimensional Airfoils with Taguchi Techniques and Grid Resolution*, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
6. Jun 97 – Jul 99, Associate Professor and Course Director, Department of Aeronautics, US Air Force Academy, CO
7. Jul 99 – Jun 05, Program Manager, Department of Aeronautics Laboratory Systems, Department of Aeronautics, US Air Force Academy, CO
8. Jul 99 – Jun 05, Adjunct Instructor Pilot, Pre-UPT Program, Department of Aeronautics, Department of Aeronautics, US Air Force Academy, CO
9. Jun 03 – Jun 05, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Aeronautics, Department of Aeronautics, US Air Force Academy, CO
10. Jun 05 – Jul 08, Commander, European Office of Aerospace Research & Development, Air Force Research Laboratory, London, UK
11. Jul 08 – Nov 09, Commander, Defense Meteorological Satellite Program, Los Angeles Air Force Base, CA
12. Nov 09 – Feb 11, Director, Defense Weather Systems Directorate, Los Angeles Air Force Base, CA
13. Feb 11 – Feb 16, Senior Scientist & Program Manager, Space and Missile Systems Center Engineering Directorate, Parsons Corp, El Segundo, CA
14. Feb 16 – May 16, Senior Acquisition Expert, Tecolote Research, Inc., Space and Missile Systems Center Military Satellite Communications Directorate, El Segundo, CA
15. May 16 – Present, Executive Director & Civilian Deputy, Remote Sensing Systems Directorate, Los Angeles Air Force Base, Los Angeles, CA

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Air Force Legion of Merit

Draper Fellow, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Associate Fellow, AIAA

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Level III Acquisition Professional Development Program certification in Systems Engineering

Level III Certification in Program Management

Level II Test & Evaluation

Registered Professional Engineer

(Current as of July 2016)