



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE

BRIGADIER GENERAL D. JASON COTHERN

Brig. Gen. D. Jason Cothorn serves as the Deputy Commander, Space Systems Command, Los Angeles Air Force Base, California, as well as the Program Executive Officer for Assured Access to Space for the 30th and 45th Space Launch Deltas at Vandenberg and Patrick Space Force Bases, respectively. He is responsible for managing the research, design, development, acquisition and sustainment of space and missile systems, command and control, launch and operational satellite systems. Space Systems Command manages an \$11 billion annual budget for the Department of Defense and employs 10,000 professionals to develop, acquire, launch, field and sustain space capabilities that protect joint warfighters and national interests in space.

Brig. Gen. Cothorn was commissioned in 1993 as an ROTC graduate of the University of Central Florida. His career has spanned a range of assignments primarily acquiring or planning for a variety of space systems, running the gamut from communications, signals intelligence, missile warning and force application. His space systems experience includes all major segments: ground, space vehicle, payloads and launch vehicles. He commanded the Space Based Infrared Systems Ground Squadron, Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles Air Force Base, California, where he led his unit during development, test and fielding of the ground control system for the first SBIRS geosynchronous satellite. Brig. Gen. Cothorn's joint assignment was in the U.S. Strategic Command's Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction Chief of Requirements Integration Department.

Prior to his current assignment, Brig. Gen. Cothorn served as the Assistant Program Director for Development at the F-35 Lighting II Joint Program Office, Arlington, Virginia. He led all aspects of fifth generation fighter modernization activities focused on delivering three F-35 variants to the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, eight international partners and three foreign military sales nations, ultimately producing 3,170 aircraft and supporting air system elements utilizing more than \$250 billion in U.S. funds. He directed a 1,194-person joint and multinational team, building and executing acquisition strategies for continued modernization and delivery of the F-35.

EDUCATION

- 1993 Bachelor of Science, Aerospace Engineering, University of Central Florida, Orlando
- 1998 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 2000 Master of Business Administration, California State University, Long Beach
- 2002 Master of Science, Organizational Leadership, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
- 2006 Master of Military Operational Arts and Science, Air Command and Staff College, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2009 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2009 The Program Manager's Course, Defense Acquisition University, Fort Belvoir, Va.
- 2012 Master of National Resource Strategy, The Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.



EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant	
July 22, 1993	
First Lieutenant	
July 22, 1995	
Captain	
July 22, 1997	
Major	
December 01, 2003	
Lieutenant Colonel	
June 01, 2008	
Colonel	
October 01, 2013	
Brigadier General	
July 03, 2019	

## ASSIGNMENTS

1. September 1993–August 1995, Program Manager, 50th Logistics Support Squadron, Schriever Air Force Base, Colo.
2. August 1995–July 1996, Executive Officer, 50th Logistics Group, Schriever AFB, Colo.
3. July 1996–March 1998, Program Manager, Milstar Operations Support Division, Military Satellite Communications Joint Program Office, Space and Missile Systems Center, Los Angeles AFB, Calif.
4. March 1998–July 2000, Chief, Military Satellite Communications Programs Planning Branch, Military Satellite Communications Joint Program Office, Space and Missile Systems Center, Los Angeles AFB, Calif.
5. July 2000–June 2002, Student, U.S. Air Force Intern Program, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.
6. June 2002–July 2005, Chief, Satellite Command and Control Branch; then Program Manager, Missile Warning Systems, Space Systems Program Office, Signals Intelligence Directorate, National Reconnaissance Office, Chantilly, Va.
7. July 2005–June 2006, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
8. June 2006–June 2008, Deputy Chief, Future Systems Division, Developmental Planning Directorate, Space and Missiles System Center, Los Angeles AFB, Calif.
9. June 2008–July 2009, Chief, Space Systems Acquisition Division, Transformational Satellite Communications System Space Group, Military Satellite Communications Systems Wing, Space and Missiles System Center, Los Angeles AFB, Calif.
10. July 2009–August 2011, Commander, Space Based Infrared Systems Ground Squadron; then Materiel Leader, SBIRS Ground Systems Branch, SBIRS Ground Division, Infrared Space Systems Directorate, Space and Missile Systems Center, Los Angeles AFB, Calif.
11. August 2011–June 2012, Student, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.
12. June 2012–July 2014, Chief, Requirements Integration Department, Defense Threat Reduction Agency and U.S. Strategic Command, Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction, Fort Belvoir, Va.
13. July 2014–June 2017, Senior Material Leader - Lower, Director, Department of Defense Space Test Program and Chief, Space Demonstrations Division, Advanced Systems and Development Directorate, Space and Missile Systems Center, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
14. June 2017–June 2020, Senior Material Leader - Upper, Assistant Program Director for Development and Production; then Assistant Program Director for Development, F-35 Joint Program Office, Arlington, Va.
15. June 2020–August 2021, Vice Commander and Program Executive Officer for Space Enterprise Corps, Space Systems Command, U.S. Space Force, Los Angeles AFB, Calif.
16. August 2021–present, Deputy Commander and Program Executive Officer for Assured Access to Space, Space Systems Command, Los Angeles AFB, Calif.

## SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 2012–July 2014, Chief, Requirements Integration Department, Defense Threat Reduction Agency and U.S. Strategic Command's Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction, Fort Belvoir, Va., as a lieutenant colonel and colonel

## MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Superior Service Medal  
Legion of Merit  
Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster  
Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster  
Joint Service Commendation Medal  
Air Force Achievement Medal  
Joint Meritorious Unit Award with oak leaf cluster  
Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with three oak leaf clusters

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Second Lieutenant July 22, 1993  
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Captain July 22, 1997  
Major Dec. 1, 2003  
Lieutenant Colonel June 1, 2008

Colonel Oct. 1, 2013

Brigadier General July 3, 2019

(Current as of August 2021)

