



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE

COLONEL MICHAEL CHRISTENSEN

Colonel Michael Christensen is Director of the United States Space Force's Test and Evaluation (USSF/TE) at The Pentagon, Washington DC. TE reports to the Vice Chief of Space Operations and is responsible for developing and implementing Test and Evaluation policy for future & current space programs and associated technology development.

Col. Christensen was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and commissioned in 2001, through Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. He began his career as an Acquisitions Manager developing advanced Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance satellites then sensor pods for the F-16 and U-2.

He deployed to Iraq 2006, with the Defense Contracts Management Agency and with the JTF Paladin in 2011, to Afghanistan as a Forensic Chemist countering IEDs. Lt. Col. Christensen's acquisition experience has run the entire life cycle, from concept development and demonstration with the ARTIMUS Satellite, to system upgrades such as managing the F-16 TARS sensor suite. Additionally, as the Operations Flight commander and Lead Flight Test Engineer at Edwards AFB, California, he planned and executed the first ballistic missile shoot down with the Airborne Laser program. He spent six years developing cyber warfare technology and then followed with time as an Instructor for the Profession of Arms Center of Excellence where he taught Squadron Commanders skills to motivate their force.



Col. Christensen is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School class 08B, with crew experience in 28 types of rotary and fixed wing aircraft.

EDUCATION

1998 Bachelor of Arts, Chemistry (Mathematics Minor) Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah

2001 Master of Science degree, Chemistry, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska

2009 Master of Science, Flight Test Engineering, U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School, Edwards Air Force Base, California

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 2001 – November 2001, student, Officer Training School, Maxwell AFB, Alabama

2. November 2001– November 2004, Analyst, Project Officer, Directorate of Transformation, Los Angeles AFB, California

3. November 2004 – May 2008, Program Manager, Aeronautical Systems Wing, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

4. May 2008 – July 2012, Student, Flight Commander, Assistant Director of Flight Test Engineer, Edwards AFB, California

5. July 2012 – June 2014, Director of Operations, 46th Test Squadron Detachment 2, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas

6. June 2014 – December 2017, Commander, 46th Test Squadron Detachment 2, JBSA-Lackland, Texas

7. December 2017 – June 2018, Commander 47th Cyber Test Squadron, JBSA-Lackland, Texas

8. June 2018 – September 2019, Instructor, Profession of Arms Center of Excellence, JBSA-Randolph, Texas

9. September 2019 – August 2021, Deputy Group Commander, 704th Test Group, Holloman AFB, New Mexico

10. August 2021-March 2023, Deputy Director, Test & Evaluation & Div Chief Plans, Programs & Policy, USSF, Pentagon, Washington DC

11. April 2023-Present, Director, Test & Evaluation, USSF, Pentagon, Washington DC

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Bronze Star

Meritorious Service Medal with 4 clusters

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant, November 15, 2001

First Lieutenant, November 15, 2003

Captain, November 15, 2005

Major, November 1, 2011

Lieutenant Colonel, October 1, 2016

Colonel, 1 March 2023

(Current as of 1 May 2023)