



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL RYAN M. COLBURN

Col Ryan Colburn is the Support Cell Chief for the Space Development Agency, the Pentagon, Arlington VA. As the Support Cell Chief, he is responsible for the strategy, architecting and acquisition of all space launch services, ground based command and control systems, operational planning and training, and user equipment for the Agency. His portfolio serves to enable the SDA's launch and operational control of hundreds of Low Earth Orbit satellites.

Col Colburn was raised near Sacramento, California and entered the Air Force in 1998 after graduating from Seattle Pacific University and commissioning through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of Washington. He has served in various levels of program management, staff and command positions for AFRL, ACC, DCMA, AFMC, SMC and the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering. Prior to his current position, the colonel served as the Deputy Director of Space and Missile Systems Center's Space Logistics Directorate, where he managed a \$1.2B budget and led a 300 member military and civilian team in the operational support and sustainment of over 70 satellites and 170 remote sites.



EDUCATION

1998 Bachelor of Science in Physics, Bachelor of Arts in Music, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, Wash.

2001 Master of Engineering in Industrial and Management Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y.

2004 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. (Top 3rd graduate)

2009 Master of Science in Military Operational Art and Science, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence

2012 Master of Engineering in Systems Engineering, Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

2016 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 1998 - August 2001, Program Manager and Assistant to the Director, Air Force Research Laboratory, Information Directorate, Rome, N.Y.

2. August 2001 - February 2004, Program Manager and Chief, Advanced Concepts Branch, USAF Distributed Mission Operations Center, Kirtland AFB, N.M.

3. February 2004 - November 2004, Engineer, Future Combat Systems, Defense Contract Management Agency, Seattle, Wash.

4. November 2004 - May 2005, Quality Assurance Representative, Defense Contract Management Agency Middle East, Djibouti
5. May 2005 - January 2007, F-22 Supporting Program Integrator and Deputy Branch Chief, Defense Contract Management Agency, Seattle, Wash.
6. February 2007 - April 2009, Commander, Specialized Acquisitions Flight, then Deputy Director, 519th Combat Sustainment Squadron, 84th Combat Sustainment Wing, Hill AFB, Utah
7. May 2009 - June 2010, Deputy Chief, then Chief, Commander's Action Group, Ogden Air Logistics Center, Hill AFB, Utah
8. July 2010 - May 2011, Special Action Officer to the Commander, Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command, Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio
9. June 2011 - June 2012, IDE Student, Systems Engineering, Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio
10. July 2012 - July 2014, Program Manager, Legacy Space Command and Control (C2) Systems, then Deputy Chief, Global C2 Systems Branch, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Peterson AFB, Colo.
11. August 2014 - July 2017, Commander, Defense Contract Management Agency, Northrop Grumman El Segundo, Redondo Beach, Calif.
12. July 2017 – December 2018, GPS Deputy Product Support Manager and Deputy Chief, GPS Operations Support and Sustainment Division, Space and Missile Systems Center, Peterson AFB, Colo.
13. January 2019 – August 2019, Deputy Director, Space Logistics Directorate, Space and Missile Systems Center, Peterson AFB, Colo.
14. August 2019 – Present, Chief, Support Cell, Space Development Agency, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 2014 - July 2017, Commander, Defense Contract Management Agency, Northrop Grumman El Segundo, Redondo Beach, Calif., as a lieutenant colonel

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster
Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Joint Service Commendation Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster
Air Force Achievement Medal
Air Force Recognition Ribbon with two oak leaf clusters
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant June 12, 1998
First Lieutenant July 11, 2000
Captain July 11, 2002
Major May 1, 2008
Lieutenant Colonel Sept. 1, 2013
Colonel Oct. 1, 2019

(Current as of January 2020)