



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE

KRIS O. ACOSTA

Kris O. Acosta, a member of the Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service, is the Director of System of Systems Engineering and Net Assessment of the Space Systems Integration Office (SSIO), Space Systems Command (SSC), Los Angeles Air Force Base, California. She establishes and maintains the overall systems engineering strategy for space acquisition programs. Ms. Acosta is responsible for space enterprise analysis and modeling and simulation. She leads the digital transformation / digital engineering effort for SSC and is responsible for the SSC Intelligence Division, ensuring that the enterprise space architecture is resilient to emergent and enduring threats. She supports the integration of National Security Space weapons systems, intelligence programs, civil space systems, commercial capabilities, and international cooperative partnership systems to create an all-of-government enterprise space architecture. Ms. Acosta is dual-hatted as the Space Deputy to Chief Architect of the Department of the Air Force Integrating Program Executive Officer for Command, Control, Communications and Battle Management. In this role, she is responsible for the technical integration of Space Capabilities into the Department of Defense's Joint All Domain and Control effort, ensuring space is fully utilized in the joint all-domain war fight.



With more than 27 years of experience in the aerospace and defense industry, Ms. Acosta is a multi-disciplinary engineer who has served in a variety of roles in the areas of reusable launch vehicles, autonomous air systems, military aircraft, directed energy, and national space systems. Across various business areas, Ms. Acosta focused on streamlining programmatic and systems engineering processes to deliver new capabilities rapidly and efficiently. Most recently, Ms. Acosta was the General Manager for Vector Launch, LLC focused on developing liquid fueled target vehicles. At Northrop Grumman Corporation (NGC), Ms. Acosta worked in roles ranging from Manager of Systems Engineering, Global Supply Chain Program Manager, and Program Manager on a variety of new business opportunities. Prior to joining NGC, she worked at Boeing for more than eight years as a thermal protection systems engineer developing advanced insulation systems for the Space Shuttle Orbiter, X-37, and other reusable launch systems.

EDUCATION

2012 Master of Advanced Studies, Architecture-based Enterprise Systems Engineering (AESE), University of California at San Diego (UCSD), La Jolla, Calif.

1992 Bachelor of Science, Materials Science and Engineering, University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), Los Angeles, Calif.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. March 1995 – August 1999, Member of Technical Staff III, Boeing
2. March 1999 – August 2001, Materials & Processes Engineering Manager, Boeing
3. August 2001 – August 2003, Project Management Specialist 5, Phantom Works, Boeing
4. August 2003 – July 2012, Systems Engineer IV, Integrated Systems, NGC
5. July 2012 – August 2015, Systems Engineering Manager, Aerospace Systems, NGC
6. August 2015 – January 2019, Global Supply Chain Program Manager Aerospace Systems, NGC
7. February 2019 – April 2021, Program Manager, Space Systems Engineering & Integration, Space Systems, NGC
8. May 2021 – November 2021, Director of Programs & Operations, Vector Launch, LLC
9. November 2021 – August 2022, General Manager, Vector Launch, LLC

UNCLASSIFIED

10. August 2022 – November 2022, Supervisory General Engineer, Space Systems Command, Space Force, Los Angeles Air Force Base

11. November 2022 – Present, Director of System of Systems Engineering, Space Systems Command, Space Force, Los Angeles Air Force Base

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

April 6, 2004 Patent No. 6,716,407 granted (under name Kris S. Oka) for Monazite-Based Blanket Coatings for TPS
August 3, 2004 Patent No. 6,770,584 granted (under name Kris S. Oka) for Hybrid Aerogel Rigid Ceramic Fiber Insulation and Method of Producing Same

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author and presenter, "Ceramic Composites for Thermal Protection Systems", 5th Japan International SAMPE Symposium, 1997
- Author and presenter, "Shuttle TPS Upgrades: The Boeing Approach", NASA Shuttle Upgrades Conference, 1998
- Author, "Thermal Protection Systems for Reusable Launch Vehicles", Air Force Research Laboratory's 3rd Thermal Protection Materials Workshop, 2000
- Co-author and presenter, "The Evolution of Flexible Insulation as Thermal Protection Systems for Reusable Launch Vehicles: AFRSI to CRI", National Space and Missile Materials Symposium, 2001
- Co-author and presenter, "Rain Durability Assessment of TPS", NASA Ames Research Center Thermal Protection Materials Workshop, 2001
- Author and presenter, "Thermal Protection Systems for Reusable Launch Vehicles", 1st Annual Symposium on Future Reusable Launch Vehicles, 2002
- Co-author and presenter, "Thermal Protection Systems for Reusable Launch Vehicles", National Space and Missile Materials Symposium, 2002

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

- Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Los Angeles
- Women in Defense Greater Los Angeles Chapter (WIDGLAC)
- NGC Vice President Mentoring Program Participant
- NGC Experienced Manager Mentor
- NCG Women's International Network (NGWIN)
- Southern California Aerospace Professional (SCAPR) Member
- International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE) Member

(Current as of January 2024)