BIOGRAPHY

Orbital
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David Swanson

Senior Director, Safety and Mission Assurance

David Swanson joined Orbital in May 2011 as the Senior Director for Safety and Mission Assurance (S&MA). He is responsible for the leadership and management of Orbital's safety, quality, and mission assurance professionals working on the company's satellite programs for the Space Systems Group and the Advanced Programs Group. He also leads the Occupational/Operational Safety departments, Configuration Management and Orbital's ISO AS9100 program. Dave interfaces directly with Orbital's Launch Systems Group to determine corporate S&MA policies and initiatives. He is entrusted with managing the corporate executive steering committee and facilitates the senior corrective action board.

In 2013, Orbital elected to sponsor the National Security Space, Mission Assurance Improvement Workshop (MAIW). Dave serves as Orbital's co-chair alongside Aerospace Corporation's Co-Chair. Additionally, he was selected by The X Prize Foundation to serve as the Chairman of a nine member panel of expert judges to officiate over the Google Lunar X Prize competition.

Before joining Orbital, Col Retired Swanson served in the United States Air Force until July 2013. Col Swanson's last assignment was as the Director of Engineering, Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC), Los Angeles Air Force Base (LAAFB), CA and as the Center's Chief Engineer. As the Center's Director of Engineering, Col Swanson developed and maintained the technical expertise, processes, and workforce necessary to support program execution. Dual hatted as SMC's Chief Systems Engineer, he lead a stratified Technical Authority responsible for the application of systems engineering across the PEO's portfolio of programs, including a comprehensive set of military space capabilities across all space mission areas, force enhancement, space superiority, force projection, and space support. He also had a role in developing and maintaining a full range of systems and technical expertise including satellites, payloads, launch vehicles, missiles, ground control systems, user equipment, and ground sensors. These systems provide capabilities such as communications, precision navigation and timing, spacelift, space situational awareness, space control, missile warning, missile defense, weather monitoring, satellite command and control, and land-based strategic deterrence.

Originally from Libertyville, Illinois, young Mr. Swanson earned his commission in 1986 after graduating from Southern Illinois University with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He began his Air Force career as a student in the second class of Undergraduate Space Training, Lowry AFB, CO. After graduation in 1986, he trained and was certified to operate the FLTSATCOM constellation of spacecraft. In the intervening years, Company Grade Officer Swanson was an analyst in Phillips Laboratory's Satellite Assessment Center, a project manager in Space and Missiles System Center's Space Test Program, a programmer in the National Reconnaissance Office's (NRO) Plans and Programs Directorate and the Executive Officer to the NRO's Deputy Director. He has held the position of Deputy Division Chief in the National Security Space Architect (NSSA), was an orbital analyst and Chief of the Special Operations vault in Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center's Satellite Control Center during the 9/11 attacks and throughout Operation Noble Eagle, and served as a speech writer to the Commander in Chief of USSPACECOM, General Ralph E. Eberhart. Major Swanson served as the Deputy Chief of Special Technical Operations in USSPACEOM's Space Control Branch. Before relocating to LAAFB, Lt Col Swanson was stationed at the United States Air Force Academy where he was an Assistant Professor of Astronautics, was the Advisor in Charge of the Space Operations Major, built a Summer SPACE program, and was the Managing Director for the Institute for Information Technology Applications. He holds Masters Degrees from the Air Force Institute of Technology in Space Operations, from the University of Colorado in Electrical Engineering, and from Air University in Military Arts and Sciences.

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