



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

John T. Best



John T. (Tom) Best is the Deputy Director of the Test Operations Directorate, at Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC), Arnold Air Force Base, Tenn. He manages and directs test operations for the free world's largest complex of ground aerospace test facilities, providing developmental testing of propulsion, aircraft, missile and space systems for the Air Force, other DoD agencies, NASA, DoE, commercial interests and foreign governments. He also directs an applied test technology program for instrumentation and facility modernization to ensure test capabilities for the future. The test operations organization is made up of a highly technical workforce of 65 government and 1,500 contractor personnel.

Mr. Best entered the federal civil service at AEDC in January 1981 after nearly nine years with ARO, Inc, the operating contractor at AEDC. He served as Head of the Long Range Requirements and Facility Planning Branch from 1991 to 1998

where he was responsible for tracking long-range test requirements and developing test facilities/techniques to meet them. He also served as the Chief of the Applied Technology Division from 1998 to 2003 where he was responsible for planning and implementing a program to develop and apply new test techniques, new instrumentation/diagnostics systems, new information technologies and new modeling and simulation capabilities for AEDC.

Best served from December 1989 to July 1991 as a Staff Specialist in the Office of the Deputy Director for Defense Research and Engineering (Test and Evaluation) within the Office of the Secretary Defense at the Pentagon, Washington DC overseeing the work of the DoD's Major Range and Test Facility Base. He is serving as the Technical Project Officer for a Data Exchange Agreement on Wind Tunnels with Germany. He also served as the Technical Area Manager for the \$160 million per year Test Support Contract at AEDC from January 2002 to September 2003.

EDUCATION:

- 1968 Associate in Science degree, Middle Georgia College, Cochran, Ga.
- 1970 Bachelor of Aerospace Engineering degree, Auburn University, Auburn, Ala.
- 1975 Master of Science degree, Auburn University, Auburn, Ala.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. April 1972 - January 1981, Aerospace Engineer, ARO, Inc, Arnold Engineering Development Center, Arnold Air Force Base, Tenn.
2. January 1981 – March 1985, Aerospace Engineer, Aeronautical Systems Test Branch, Arnold Engineering Development Center, Arnold Air Force Base, Tenn.
3. March 1985 – March 1987, Aerospace Engineer, Space Systems Test Branch, Arnold Engineering Development Center, Arnold Air Force Base, Tenn.
4. March 1987 – December 1989, Corporate Planner, Corporate Planning Office, Arnold Engineering Development Center, Arnold Air Force Base, Tenn.
5. December 1989 – July 1991, Staff Specialist, Office of the Deputy Director for Defense Research and Engineering (Test and Evaluation), Office of the Secretary of Defense, The Pentagon, Washington, DC
6. July 1991 – June 1998, Head, Long Range Requirements and Facility Planning Branch, Arnold Engineering Development Center, Arnold Air Force Base, Tenn.
7. June 1998 – July 2003, Chief, Applied Test Technology Division, Arnold Engineering Development Center, Arnold AFB, Tenn.
8. July 2003 – Present, Deputy Director, Test Operations Directorate, Arnold Engineering Development Center, Arnold AFB, Tenn.

CERTIFICATION:

APDP Level III, Test and Evaluation

APDP Level II, Program Management

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:

Associate Fellow American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)

- Served as National Ground Test Technical Committee member
- Served as Tennessee Section Secretary

Member National Management Association (NMA)

- Served as Chairman of the Board and President of Arnold Chapter

Member International Test and Evaluation Association (ITEA)

- Served as President and Treasurer of Volunteer Chapter
- Served as National Vice President
- Serving on National Board of Directors and as National Award Committee Chairman

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

GS 0861-12 January 5, 1981

GS 0861-13 December 8, 1985

GS 0861-14 July 28, 1991

GS 0861-15 June 7, 1998