

CV for Gary E. Payton

Professor Gary Payton serves as a Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Schriever Chair in Astronautics at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Prior to becoming the Schriever Chair, he was the Deputy Undersecretary of the Air Force for Space Programs, Washington, D.C. He provided guidance, direction and oversight for all Air Force space and space-related acquisition plans, and strategies for research, development, test, evaluation and space-related industrial base issues.

Prof. Payton earned his Bachelor of Science degree in astronautics from the U.S. Air Force Academy and his Master of Science degree in aeronautical and astronautical engineering from Purdue University. As an Air Force officer, he served as a pilot, instructor pilot, spacecraft operations director and space technology manager. In 1985, he flew as a payload specialist on STS-51C *Discovery* (January 24-27, 1985) which launched from and returned to land at the Kennedy Space Center, Florida. STS-51C was the first dedicated Space Shuttle Department of Defense mission. After his flight on *Discovery*, he served in the Pentagon in a series of increasingly more responsible positions in the Air Force and the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization. He retired from the Air Force with the rank of Colonel after more than 23 years of service.

Mr. Payton has also served as NASA's Deputy Associate Administrator for Space Transportation Technology where he initiated, planned, and led the X-33, X-34, X-37 and DC-XA flight test projects. His responsibilities included program formulation, budget preparation, and program advocacy with Congress, the White House, the Department of Defense, and the media.

EDUCATION

1971 Distinguished Graduate, Bachelor of Science degree in astronautics, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO.

1972 Master of Science degree in aeronautical and astronautical engineering, Purdue University, W. Lafayette, IN.

CAREER CHRONOLOGY

1. 1972 - 1976, U.S. Air Force pilot and instructor pilot, Craig AFB, Ala.
2. 1976 - 1980, Spacecraft Launch Director, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla.
3. 1980 - 1984, U.S. Air Force pilot and engineer, Spacecraft System Program Office, Los Angeles AFS, Calif.
4. 1984 - 1986, Payload Specialist, Space Shuttle *Discovery* (STS-51C), Houston, Texas
5. 1986 - 1990, Assistant Deputy for Technology and executive officer to the Director, Strategic Defense Initiative Organization, Washington, D.C.
6. 1990 - 1991, student, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
7. 1991 - 1994, Dep for Technology, Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, Washington, D.C.
8. 1995 - 2000, Dep Assoc Administrator for Space Launch Technology, NASA HQ, Washington, D.C.
9. 2000 - 2002, Senior Vice President for Engineering and Operations, ORBIMAGE, Dulles, Va.
10. 2002 - 2005, Deputy for Advanced Systems, Missile Defense Agency, Washington, D.C.
11. 2005 - 2010, Air Force Deputy Undersecretary for Space Programs, Washington, D.C.

AWARDS AND HONORS

USAF Outstanding Career Service Award
NRO Gold Medal for Distinguished Service
Defense Superior Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster
Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters
Joint Service Commendation Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal
National Defense Service Medal
Vietnam Service Medal
1989 Purdue Astronaut Engineering Alumnus Award
1997 NASA Creative Management Award
1999 Purdue Outstanding Aerospace Engineer Award
2004 Presidential Rank Award, Meritorious Executive
2008 Associate Fellow AIAA
2010 Purdue Distinguished Engineering Alumni
2012 Inducted into Sigma Gamma Tau
2012 Inducted into Tau Beta Pi
2014 Purdue Griffin Award
2014 USAFA Outstanding Academy Educator

(Current as of January 2016)