



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL SHAHNAZ M. PUNJANI



Col Shahnaz Punjani is the Director of the Operationally Responsive Space Office, Kirtland AFB, NM. In this role Colonel Punjani oversees the development, demonstration, and fielding of space capabilities focused on timely satisfaction of Joint Force Commanders' needs. ORS is focused on providing affordable, resilient, and rapid solutions that fundamentally change the way space power is used across the Department of Defense.

Prior to this position, Col Punjani was the Commander of the 30th Launch Group, 30th Space Wing, Air Force Space Command at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. In this role, she was responsible for launch processing mission assurance and integration for the DoD, USAF, NRO, MDA, DARPA, and NASA.

Col Punjani received her commission from the Reserve Officer Training Commissioning Program at the Pennsylvania State University in May 1991 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering. She holds a Master of Science in Aeronautical Engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio and a Master of Science degree from the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. She graduated from the Air Force Test Pilot School's Flight Test Engineer Course in 1999.

Col Punjani is a career acquisition officer with assignments at the research laboratory, flight test center, program office, and Air Staff levels. Her experience includes chemical defense systems; hypersonic propulsion technology; aircraft and weapons flight test; Air Force programming and budgeting; test and evaluation of demonstration satellites; launch system telemetry relay; and acquisition education. Col Punjani is Level III certified in Systems Planning, Research, Development, and Engineering, Test and Evaluation, and Program Management.

EDUCATION

- 1991 Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering, Pennsylvania State University, State College PA
- 1995 Master of Science in Aeronautical Engineering, Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright Patterson AFB OH
- 1996 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base AL
- 2004 Air Command and Staff College (Correspondence)
- 2006 Master of Arts, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base AL (distinguished graduate)
- 2007 Air War College (Correspondence)

- 2010 National Defense Fellow, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy
- 2012 Joint Combined Warfighting School, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA
- 2015 Program Manager's Course, PMT 401, Defense Acquisition University, San Diego, CA

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Mar 92 - May 94, engineer, chemical defense systems, Brooks AFB TX
2. May 94 - Dec 95, graduate student, Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB OH
3. Dec 95 - Dec 97, propulsion engineer, Air Force Research Laboratory, Wright-Patterson AFB OH
4. Dec 97 - Mar 98, section commander, Air Force Research Laboratory, Wright-Patterson AFB OH
5. Mar 98 - Dec 98, military assistant, Air Force Research Laboratory, Wright-Patterson AFB OH
6. Dec 98 - Dec 99, flight test engineer candidate, Test Pilot School, Edwards AFB CA.
7. Jan 00 - Jan 02, flight test engineer, 40th Flight Test Squadron, Eglin AFB FL
8. Jan 02 - Jan 04, director of test operations, Det 1, 46th Operations Group, Hurlburt Field, FL
9. Jan 04 - Jul 05, program element monitor, SAF/AQRT, Pentagon, DC
10. Jul 05 - Jun 06, student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB AL
11. Jun 06 - Jul 09, commander, Space Test Operations Squadron, Kirtland AFB NM
12. Jul 09 - Jun 10, National Defense Fellowship, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Washington DC
13. Jun 10 - Aug 12, assistant professor, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Fort McNair, Washington DC
14. Sep 12 - Jul 15, commander, 30th Launch Group, Vandenberg AFB, CA
15. Jul 15 - Present, director, Operationally Responsive Space Office, Kirtland AFB, NM

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

- Legion of Merit
- Defense Meritorious Service Medal
- Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters
- Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters
- Air Force Achievement Medal
- Richard Abrams Test Engineering Excellence Award

ACHIEVEMENTS / DATES OF PROMOTIONS

- Second Lieutenant May 1991
- First Lieutenant Oct 1993
- Captain Oct 1995
- Major Aug 2002
- Lieutenant Colonel Jul 2007
- Colonel Sep 2011

(Current as of November 2015)