

BIOGRAPHY

NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

DR. BYRON F. KNIGHT

Dr. Byron F. Knight, a Defense Intelligence Senior Leader, is the Deputy Director, NRO Systems Engineering for Future Conflict Capabilities. As the principle technical advisor to the Director of Systems Engineering, he focuses on improved reconnaissance systems and operations to address emerging tactical and operational military and intelligence needs. Prior to being named DD/SED, Dr. Knight was the NRO Mission Assurance Executive, providing oversight of Mission Assurance, Industrial Base and Independent Review Teams across the NRO Enterprise. Prior to his return to the NRO in 2010, he was the Director, Frontiers Division, Office of Geospatial-Intelligence Management, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Bethesda, Maryland. Dr. Knight was the chief advisor to the NGA Director, in the director's capacity as the Functional Manager of the National System for Geospatial-Intelligence, developing future customer needs and required capabilities. From March through July 2016, Dr. Knight was the Acting Deputy Director of NRO Systems Engineering, responsible for the management of the 900-person work force and multiple-\$100M annual budget.



Dr. Knight, a native of Tallahassee, Florida, began his career in 1982 at the Harris Corporation in Melbourne, Florida, developing ground-based and space borne antenna systems for the Department of Defense. He worked for two years with Lockheed Corporation as a National Aeronautics Space Agency space shuttle thermal protection systems engineer, as the aft section team lead for the Shuttle Atlantis. From 1986 to 1988, he was the division mechanical engineer for Unisys Corporation, developing military and intelligence signals intelligence hardware systems. He returned to Harris Corporation to continue developing defense space and terrestrial intelligence technology.

Dr. Knight moved to the NRO, Chantilly, Virginia, on a technology fellowship in 1998, working in the Operational Support Office (OSO). He worked with a team of civilian, military, and contractors to develop a new communications dissemination program for low bandwidth military users. This activity led to research and studies in Measurement and Signature Intelligence (MASINT), and was identified as a leader in the military application of these typically complex technical products and services. Between 2000 and 2003, Dr. Knight continued his support in OSO as an employee of SRA International. In 2003, he began to directly support MASINT development programs, assuming duties as Chief Scientist in October 2005. He completed his two-year joint duty assignment at NGA in May 2010, returning to the NRO as the Deputy, Mission Success Executive.

EDUCATION

1982 Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
 1990 Master of Science degree in mechanical engineering, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC.
 2000 Doctor of Philosophy degree in mechanical engineering, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
 2006 Senior Officer Security Seminar, Richmond, VA.
 2007 Intelligence Fellows Program, Aspen Institute, Wye River, MD.
 2007 Intelligence Community Executive Leader Program, Northwestern University, IL.
 2007 Program on Creative Leadership, Center for Creative Leadership, Richmond, VA.

2009 Intelligence Community Senior Leadership Program, Washington, DC.

2010 Leading the Intelligence Community, Washington, D.C.

2014 Leadership and Management Certificate, National Intelligence University, Washington, DC.

CAREER CHRONOLOGY

1. 1982 - 1985, Mechanical Engineer, ground and space intelligence and defense communications systems, Harris Corporation, Melbourne, Fla.
2. 1985 - 1986, Thermal Protection Systems Engineer on the Space Shuttle Atlantis, Lockheed Corporation, Kennedy Space Center, Fla.
3. 1986 - 1988, Mechanical Engineer, intelligence and defense signals intelligence systems, Unisys Corporation, Reston, Va.
4. 1988 - 1990, Research Assistant, Precision Engineering Center, North Carolina State University, Raleigh
5. 1990 - 1994, Advanced Systems Engineer, terrestrial intelligence systems, Harris Corporation, Melbourne, Fla.
6. 1994, Advanced Systems Manager, ground-based optical systems, Contraves USA, Pittsburgh, Pa.
7. 1994 - 1998, Advanced Systems Manager, space-based intelligence and defense systems, Harris Corporation, Melbourne, Fla.
8. 1998 - 2000, Senior Systems Engineer, space-based intelligence and defense Systems, Harris Corporation, Chantilly, Va.
9. 1999 - 2003, Independent Consultant, space systems
10. 2000 - 2003, Director of National Programs Development, SRA International (Adroit Systems, Inc.), Fairfax, Va.
11. 2003 – 2005, Senior Systems Engineer, space-based intelligence and defense systems, Harris Corporation, Chantilly, Va.
12. 2005 - 2008, Chief Scientist, Measurement and Signature Intelligence and Technical Applications, Deputy Director for National Support, National Reconnaissance Office, Chantilly, Va.
13. 2008 - 2010, Director, Frontiers Division, Office of Geospatial-Intelligence Management, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Md.
14. 2010 - Present, Senior Technical Adviser for Mission Success, Systems Engineering Directorate, National Reconnaissance Office, Chantilly, Va.
15. 2013 – 2017, Mission Assurance Executive, Systems Engineering Directorate, National Reconnaissance Office, Chantilly, Va.
16. 2017 - Present, Deputy Director, NRO Systems Engineering Directorate, National Reconnaissance Office, Chantilly, Va.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Program Management, Level III Systems Engineering, Level III

Science and Technology Management, Level II Test and Evaluation, Level I

(Current as of August 2017)