

John F. Thompson — Biography

John F. “JT” Thompson is a recently retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant General and former Commander of the U.S. Space Force’s Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles Air Force Base, California; where he was responsible for approximately 6,000 employees nationwide and an annual budget of \$9 billion. As the Department of the Air Force Program Executive Officer for Space, General Thompson managed the research, design, development, acquisition and sustainment of satellites and the associated command and control systems. His portfolio included military satellite communication, missile warning, navigation and timing, space-based weather, space launch and test ranges, certification for launch, space superiority, responsive space and other emerging evolutionary space programs.

JT entered the Air Force in 1984 as a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado and retired, after over 36 years of active service, in August 2021. During his career, he served in a variety of scientific, acquisition and logistics-oriented capacities, including staff assignments at Air Force Systems Command, Air Force Materiel Command and in the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition.

The general served as Director of Propulsion, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma; and Chief of Staff, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson AFB. He commanded the 327th Aircraft Sustainment Wing, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, and the 303rd Aeronautical Systems Wing, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, where he also served as Air Force Program Executive Officer for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance systems. JT served as Air Force Program Executive Officer for Strategic Systems, Deputy Program Executive Officer for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program, Air Force Program Executive Officer for Tankers/KC-46 Program Director, and Commander, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.