

Dr. Waddington received his PhD in Mathematics from Colorado State University and was initially recruited by the Air Force Research Laboratory Sensors Directorate. He conducted independent research projects in Over the Horizon Radar, Synthetic Aperture Radar, and Passive Source Localization before moving into Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. Dr. Waddington was recruited by the AFRL Senior Scientist for Autonomy to join the first cadre of researchers to stand up the AFRL Autonomous Capabilities Team (ACT3), a novel cross-directorate group that explored both new ways to develop AI solutions and demonstrated a novel resource management approach to accelerate AFRL AI programs. Dr. Waddington was one of the three initial researchers that created and launched the AFRL Vanguard Skyborg and he acted as it's AI Lead during the first year of development. During this time Dr. Waddington was also elected as the Junior Force Council President and led an enterprise-wide Tiger Team that reported directly to the 2-star AFRL Commander.

In early 2020, Dr. Waddington was selected as the new Special Assistant to the Chief Scientist of the Department of the Air Force. Over the next two years at the Pentagon, Dr. Waddington served under two Chief Scientists and was deeply involved in the implementation of the Air Force 2030 Strategy, the stand up of the USSF and the creation of the USSF CTIO Office. Dr. Waddington returned to AFRL in 2022 and is currently dual-hatted as the DAF Assistant Deputy Technology Executive Officer for Space S&T and the Deputy Chief Strategist for the Transformational Capabilities Office. In this capacity, he works with CTIO, SWAC, S5, SpaceCOM, SQT, ONR, and other key stakeholders to develop strategies and plans for AFRL Space investments.