General Lew Allen, Jr.
Inducted 2007

General Lew Allen, Jr., graduated from high school in Gainesville, Texas, and entered the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1943 and graduated in June 1946 with a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree. In November 1946, he completed multiengine flight training in B-25s and was assigned to the 7th Bombardment Group of Strategic Air Command at Carswell AFB, Texas, where he flew B-29 Superfortresses and Convair B-36s before becoming an assistant special weapons officer for the 7th Bombardment Wing.

General Allen was assigned to graduate training in September 1950 and received a Master of Science (MS) degree in nuclear physics from the University of Illinois in 1952. Two years later, he earned his doctorate after completing a dissertation on high-energy photonuclear reactions. Those credentials earned him an assignment as a physicist in the Test Division of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission's Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, where he conducted experiments associated with thermonuclear weapons design and the effects of high-altitude nuclear explosions for ballistic missile defense.

During June 1957 to December 1961, General Allen served as science adviser to the Physics Division of the Air Force Special Weapons Center at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico. Specializing in the effects of high-altitude nuclear explosions, he participated in several series of nuclear tests and was scientific director of a major experiment that used a large number of rockets to measure the characteristics of electrons trapped in the Earth's geomagnetic field after an exospheric nuclear burst. Part of the "Argus" series in the South Atlantic, the latter experiment led scientists to conclude that trapped electrons would not seriously degrade military communications.

Assigned in December 1961 to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Space Technology Office in the Directorate of Research and Engineering, General Allen first became involved with work on classified satellites. Among his noteworthy projects was determination of radiation effects on the photographic film used in orbiting Corona reconnaissance satellites. During the remainder of the 1960s, he performed high-level

staff work involving some of the nation's most sensitive classified space projects, first as Director of Advanced Plans in the Special Projects Office of the Secretary of the Air Force in Los Angeles, California (1965-68), then as Director of the Space Systems Staff, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, in Washington, DC (1968-70). Thereafter, returning to the Special Projects Office in Los Angeles, he accepted responsibility for procurement, launch, and on-orbit operation of America's national-security space assets.

General Allen became Director of the National Security Agency (NSA) in August 1973. Before departing in 1977, he managed to eliminate potentially unethical and illegal practices within the NSA and to win that organization congressional recognition as a model of ethical behavior within the U.S. intelligence community.

Upon receipt of his fourth star in August 1977, General Allen led Air Force Systems Command, which had responsibility for research, development, and acquisition of all military satellites, space boosters, and USAF ballistic missiles. The next year, he became U.S. Air Force Vice Chief of Staff and, in July 1978, won congressional approval as the service's tenth Chief of Staff. In the latter capacity, he kept the Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite program on track when skeptics were trying to kill it. As a member of Joint Chiefs of Staff, he contributed to deliberations on the SALT II agreement and the proper balance between long-range missiles and bombers. Before retiring from active duty on 30 June 1982, he oversaw the approval process for establishment of Space Command--an Air Force major command for space operations.

Following his retirement from the Air Force, Dr. Allen became Director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) NASA center in Pasadena, California, and remained in that position until 199o. During those eight years, JPL was responsible for several space missions: Voyager's encounters with Uranus and Neptune; the Venus radar mapper (Magellan) which used synthetic aperture radar to map cloud-covered Venus; the Infrared Astronomy Satellite; the replacement of the wide-field camera on the Hubble Telescope; and the beginning of Galileo's flight to Jupiter. Also, in 1987, Asteroid 4125 was named "Lew Allen" in his honor. General Allen died on 4 January 2010.