

General Thomas S. Moorman, Jr.
Inducted 2016



General Thomas S. Moorman, Jr. was born in Washington, D.C. He earned his Bachelor's degree in history and political science from Dartmouth College and was commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps in 1962. He completed Squadron Officer's School in 1965.

General Moorman served in a variety of intelligence and reconnaissance-related positions within the United States and worldwide. He initially served as an intelligence officer with a B-47 Bombardment Wing at Schilling Air Force Base, Kansas, from 1962 – 1965 and then as a mission planner with the newly established SR-71 unit, the 9th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing at Beale AFB, California, from August 1965 to October 1966. He next served one year as operations officer, 432nd Reconnaissance Technical Squadron, Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand where he was responsible for the processing and interpretation of tactical imagery collected over North Vietnam and Laos during the Vietnam War.

After completing his Southeast Asia tour of duty in November 1967, General Moorman joined the 497th Reconnaissance Technical Group in Wiesbaden, Germany, as a reconnaissance-intelligence staff officer. In November 1970, he transferred to the Air Force Special Projects Production Facility, Westover Air Force Base, Massachusetts, first as the Assistant Director of Evaluation and later as the Executive Officer. General Moorman received a Master's degree in Business Administration from Western New England College in 1972.

He received a Master's degree in Political Science from Auburn University in 1975, along with completing Air Command and Staff College as a distinguished graduate. In August 1975, he served as the Executive Officer, then Deputy Director of Plans and Programs, Office of Space Systems, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Washington, D.C. During this four-year tour,

he helped draft the national space policies of Presidents Ford and Carter and served on a number of Defense Department and Air Force space studies.

In 1979, he completed Air War College by correspondence, then graduated from National War College at Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C., in 1980. Following Air War College, he was selected as Deputy Military Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force and served two secretaries, the Honorable Hans M. Mark and the Honorable Verne Orr. He was next assigned to the North American Aerospace Defense Command, Cheyenne Mountain Complex, Colorado, as Director of Space Operations. In this position, he was responsible for integration of the worldwide space surveillance network and maintenance of the Space Catalog.

In March 1982, he became Deputy Director, Space Defense, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, where he was deeply involved in the planning and organizing for the establishment of Air Force Space Command. General Moorman remained at Peterson Air Force Base and was named the first Director of the Commander's Group in August 1982, serving as an advisor to the Commander and as spokesman for the command. In July 1984, he became the Vice Commander of the 1st Space Wing, at that time the most global of all Air Force wings, with over thirty installations from Thule in Greenland to Woomera in Australia on a north-south axis, and from Taegu in Korea, to Pirinlik in Turkey, on an east-west axis.

In March 1985, he became Director of Space Systems, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force. In that capacity, he was Director of Staff for the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) and oversaw development of the plan to recover the Nation's expendable launch capability in the aftermath of the Space Shuttle *Challenger* disaster. In October 1987, General Moorman became director of Space and Strategic Defense Initiative Programs, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition at the Pentagon, where he provided program management direction for the development and procurement of Air Force surveillance, communications, navigation and weather satellites, space launch vehicles, anti-satellite weapons and ground based and airborne strategic radars, communications and command centers. Additionally, he represented the Air Force to the Strategic Defense Initiative Office (SDIO) and was authorized to accept SDI program execution responsibilities on behalf of the Air Force. In those positions, he was responsible for programs totaling over \$5 billion annually.

As Commander and Vice Commander of Air Force Space Command from 1990 to 1994, General Moorman was responsible for operating military space systems, ground-based missile warning radars, the Nation's space launch centers at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, and Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, a worldwide network of space surveillance radars and electro optical cameras, as well as maintaining the intercontinental ballistic missile force. Units under General Moorman's command provided Air Force space support to the coalition forces during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In 1994, General Moorman chaired a congressionally directed study to examine modernization of the country's space launch capabilities. This study identified a number of modernization options and, ultimately, resulted in development and fielding of Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicles.

General Moorman began his final military assignment in July 1994, as Vice Chief of Staff, United States Air Force. In that position, he oversaw and managed the day-to-day activities of the Air Staff, such as planning, programming, budgeting, and administration. He chaired the Air Force Council, which finalized all programming proposals, and he represented the Air Force in a number of joint and interagency organizations, such as the Joint Resources Oversight Committee, the Defense Medical Advisory Committee, the Senior Readiness Oversight Committee, and the Quadrennial Defense Review. General Moorman also chaired the Air Force Board of Directors, charged with developing the service's strategic vision for the 21st century. He received two honorary degrees--a Doctorate in Management from Colorado Tech in 1994 and a Doctorate of Laws from Clemson University in 1995. The general retired from active duty on August 1, 1997.

General Moorman is a Trustee of the Falcon Foundation and a member of the Air Force Association's Forces Capabilities Committee. He is the Chairman Emeritus of the Space Foundation, a member of the Senior Advisory Group of the US Strategic Command, a member of the Council of Foreign Relations, and a member of the Cosmos Club. General Moorman also is the Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Aerospace Corporation, is an Outside Director on the Board of Smiths Detection and Smiths Interconnect, and an Outside Director on the Board of Elbit Systems of America. He has served on the Air Force Space Command commander's Independent Strategic Assessment Group (ISAG).

General Moorman received numerous awards for contributions to the Nation's and the Air Force's space programs: the National Geographic Society's General Thomas D. White U. S. Air Force Space Trophy (1991); the General James V. Hartinger Award (1992), presented by the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the National Security Industrial Association; the Eugene M. Zuckert Management Award (1993); the Ira C. Eaker Fellowship Award (1994), along with the Jimmy Doolittle Fellowship Award; the National Space Club's Dr. Robert H. Goddard Memorial Trophy (1995); the American Astronautical Society's Military Astronautics Award (1997); the Tennessee Ernie Ford Distinguished Achievement Award (1996) for exceptional leadership in support of U.S. space programs; the United States Space Foundation Space Achievement Award (1998); and the Lt General Glenn A. Kent Leadership Award (2007) for contributions to the Air Force analytical community. The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) chose General Moorman as the 1998 Von Karman lecturer; that same year, the National Air and Space Museum selected him to deliver the Wernher Von Braun lecture. In 2004, Space News selected him for one of the Top Ten contributors to the Nation's space program over the previous fifteen years. In 2012, General Moorman received the Space Foundation's James E. Hill Lifetime Space Achievement Award.

