Rodney C. Pratt
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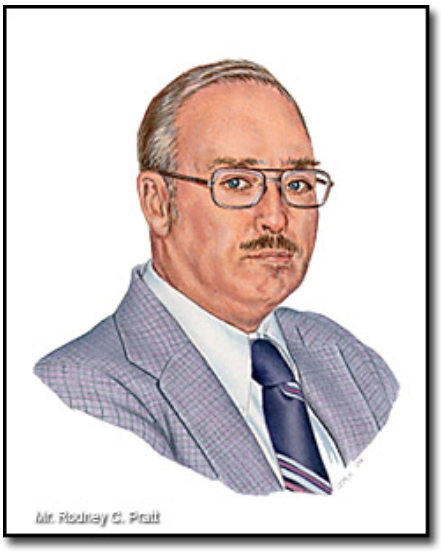

Mr. Rodney C. Pratt was born in Port Dickinson, a suburb of Binghamton, New York, in September 1929. After completing a course of study in Electrical Technology at Broome County Technical College in 1950, serving two years in the army, and working as a transmitter engineer at several local radio stations, he entered Clarkson University and earned a bachelor of electrical engineering degree in 1957.

Mr. Pratt worked as an electronics engineer, primarily in the field of satellite communications (SATCOM), at Rome Air Development Center (RADC), Griffiss AFB, New York during 1957-1985. He was involved with design and development of the first SATCOM ground terminals for experimentation with the *Echo I* passive satellite. He personally tuned in the world's first intercontinental voice message by satellite, which originated from the Trinidad, West Indies, terminal and was received on 12 August 1960 at Floyd, New York, where a state historical marker now marks the site. He subsequently upgraded the Trinidad-Floyd SATCOM link to conduct successful two-way communications using *Echo II*.

In 1965, when active satellites began to emerge, he set up a transportable terminal at March AFB, California, for experimentation using *Syncom III*. He established SATCOM links between the March terminal and other land terminals, a ship terminal, and an airborne terminal. In 1966, he redesigned and modified the transportable terminal to operate exclusively at X-band. Mr. Pratt continued during the late 1960s and1970s to conduct on-the-air, scientific experiments using the Initial Defense Satellite Communications Program (IDSCP) series, Lincoln Experimental Satellites (LES) 5 and 6, the Tactical Communications Satellite (Tacsat), the Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS) II series, and the Air Force Satellite Communications (AFSATCOM) I system. During June 1974-September 1975, he set up the Verona Test Site facilities to evaluate AFSATCOM I pre-production ground terminals for

developmental testing and evaluation (DT&E) and initial operational testing and evaluation (IOT&E).

Mr. Pratt represented the Air Force during 1975-1983 on STP-6—i.e., Technical Panel 6 (Space Communications) of Subgroup S (Communications Technology)—of The Technical Cooperation Program (TTCP), which involved exchange of satellite communication ideas among the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia. He also served as a member of the C3 Working Group for the MX missile program communication interface.

Named project manager in 1980 for Project 1227, the terminal segment of the extremely complex USAF Advanced Space Communications Program, Mr. Pratt accepted responsibility for the development of airborne terminal technology for future MILSATCOM systems. In that capacity, he was instrumental in finding solutions to three longstanding deficiencies in SATCOM systems: inadequate anti-jam protection, insufficient capacity, and excessive terminal costs.

After retiring from RADC, Mr. Pratt became a consultant to DIGICOMP Research Corporation, where he contributed significantly to the investigation of high-power microwave (HPM) effects on military communication equipment.