

GEN. WILLIAM L. SHELTON, USAF (RET.)

VICE CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THE AEROSPACE CORPORATION



Retired Air Force general William L. Shelton was elected to the Board of Trustees of The Aerospace Corporation on March 12, 2015. He was elected vice chairman in December 2017.

Gen. Shelton is chairman of the board, Space Foundation. He retired from the United States Air Force in September 2014 as commander of Air Force Space Command, a position he held from January 2011 until his retirement. As head of Air Force Space Command, Gen. Shelton was responsible for organizing, equipping, training, and maintaining mission-ready space and cyberspace forces and capabilities for North American Aerospace Defense Command, U.S. Strategic Command, and other combatant commands around the world. Prior to this assignment, he served in the Pentagon as Assistant Vice Chief of Staff and Director, Air Staff, U.S. Air Force, from 2009 to 2011.

During his 38-year career in the Air Force, Gen. Shelton commanded space operations units at every level and held staff positions in a wide range of Air Force and Department of Defense organizations. He was a space shuttle controller for the first 18 shuttle missions, commander of Global Positioning System operations during the initial deployment of the constellation, and commander of the Air Force's largest ballistic missile wing. He also commanded all Department of Defense space operations during such internationally significant events as the Chinese antisatellite test and the North Korean Taepo Dong launch. He served as the Chief Information Officer of the Air Force and director of the Air Force headquarters staff during one of the most turbulent periods in Air Force history.

Among Gen. Shelton's many awards are the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Defense Superior Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with silver and two bronze oak leaf clusters, and the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with oak leaf cluster.

Gen. Shelton is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, where he earned a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering. He also earned two master's degrees: in aeronautical engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology and in national security studies from the National War College.

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