



Lester Lyles, USAF (RET.) (NAE), Chair, is a consultant with The Lyles Group. He retired from the U.S. Air Force (USAF) in 2003 as commander of the Air Force Material Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (AFB). General Lyles entered the USAF in 1968 as a distinguished graduate of the Air Force ROTC program. He served in various positions, including program element monitor of the Short-Range Attack Missile at USAF Headquarters (USAF/HQ), special assistant and aide-de-camp to the commander of Air Force Systems Command (AFSC), chief of the Avionics Division in the F-16 Systems Program Office, director of Tactical Aircraft Systems at AFSC headquarters, and as director of the Medium-Launch Vehicles Program and Space-Launch Systems offices. General Lyles became the AFSC headquarters assistant deputy chief of staff for requirements in 1989 and deputy chief of staff for requirements in 1990. In 1992, he became vice commander of the Ogden Air Logistics Center at Hill AFB. He served as commander of the center until 1994, when he was assigned to command the Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles AFB. In 1996, General Lyles became the director of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization. In 1999, he was assigned as vice chief of staff at USAF/HQ. He served on the NASA Advisory Council (NAC), and since becoming Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board chair, is now an (ex officio) member of the NAC. His numerous awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Astronautics Engineer of the Year from the National Space Club, the National Black Engineer of the Year Award, Honorary Doctor of Laws from New Mexico State University, and NASA's Distinguished Public Service Medal for serving on the President's Commission on Implementing the U.S. Space Exploration Policy. In 2009, General Lyles served on the Augustine Space Committee for developing the agenda for NASA's human space flight missions. He received his B.S. in mechanical engineering from Howard University and his M.S. in mechanical and nuclear engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology Program. He is a member of the NRC Air Force Studies Board and served as chair of the Committee on the Rationale and Goals of the U.S. Space Program and as a member of the Committee on the NASA Technology Roadmap.