

William L. Shelton
General, United States Air Force, Retired



William Shelton is an independent consultant and a member of the Board of Trustees for the Aerospace Corporation and a member of the Board of Directors for Airbus Defense and Space, Inc. He also serves as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Space Foundation.

General Shelton retired as Commander, Air Force Space Command, in September 2014. During his career, he commanded space operations units at every level and held staff positions in a wide range of Air Force and Department of Defense organizations. In his final assignment, he led a team of over 40,000 at Air Force Space Command to provide space and cyberspace operational forces as well as acquisition of space systems. In this role, he was responsible for a budget of over \$10 billion.

During his career, General Shelton was a Space Shuttle controller for the first 18 missions, commander of Global Positioning System operations during the initial deployment of the constellation, and commander of the largest ballistic missile wing. He also commanded all Department of Defense space operations during internationally significant events such as the Chinese anti-satellite test and the North Korean Taepo Dong launch. He served as the CIO of the Air Force and the director of the Air Force headquarters staff during one of the most turbulent periods in the Air Force's history. While leading Air Force Space Command, he reduced \$1 billion from the operations budget while preserving vital space services. He also drove the development of new satellite architectural concepts to address growing space threats and significant fiscal challenges. Finally, he led the rapid maturation of cyberspace forces to enhance both the defensive and offensive cyber capabilities of the Air Force.

General Shelton earned a bachelor of science degree in aeronautical engineering from the United States Air Force Academy in 1976, a master of science degree in aeronautical engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1980, and a master of science degree in national security studies from the National War College in 1995.