

## Biography Jon S. Beesley



Jon was born and raised in Rexburg, Idaho. He graduated from Utah State University with a B.S. degree in Physics and was commissioned in the USAF in 1972. Following USAF pilot training and conversion training in the F-4 Phantom II, he served 4 years as an F-4 pilot stationed in the Netherlands with the 32 TFS. Jon graduated from USAF Test Pilot School in 1979 and began his test pilot career at Edwards AFB working on classified programs.



Selected as the operations officer (1981-1986) for the F-117 stealth fighter, he had the good fortune to be one of the first USAF pilots to fly the stealth fighter. In this testing, his efforts focused on flying qualities and envelope expansion flights. He was a co-recipient of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots -- Ivan C. Kincheloe award, the top award given for his work in the early days of the F-117 program. He was also presented an Air Medal by the USAF Chief of Staff in 1986 for safely recovering

an F-117 badly damaged during a destructive flutter incident later in the program. Jon left the Air Force in 1986 and joined the General Dynamics Corporation in Fort Worth Texas.

As a General Dynamics test pilot, he flew developmental flights on an innovative night attack system on the F-16 – Falcon Eye. This program was one of the first to use helmet-mounted displays and head steered infrared devices on a tactical aircraft. He also became the General Dynamics project test pilot on the YF-22 in the Advanced Tactical Fighter competition in 1990. In this role on the YF-22, he was also principally involved with flying qualities development work with special emphasis on demonstrating the tremendous high angle of attack capability of this aircraft during this short demonstration program. He was selected to company's hall of fame for his work on the YF-22 program. Following the selection of the YF-22 as the Air Force's next advanced tactical fighter, he moved into the F-22 program as the Fort Worth project pilot (as the company name evolved to Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company).





His efforts then focused on the development and subsequent flight-testing of the F-22 Raptor. The primary area of emphasis was aircraft systems integration, development of superb flying qualities and agility throughout the Raptor's flight envelope. He was the second pilot to fly the F-22 and one of the lead pilots in envelope expansion flights. For his career achievements as a test pilot, Jon was awarded the Chuck Yeager award in 2000 by the Engineers Council of Southern California.



Jon is currently the Chief Test Pilot on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. The Joint Strike Fighter will be built in 3 variants: a Conventional Takeoff and Landing (CTOL), a Carrier Version (CV) and a Short Takeoff and Vertical Landing Version (STOVL). This advanced very low observable aircraft will be equipped with the most advanced missions systems of any aircraft in the world. Jon made the first flight of the F-35 15 December 2006. In 2007, he received a second Ivan C. Kincheloe award from the Society of Experimental Test Pilots for his work on the F-35.



Jon Beesley has approximately 5500 hours of flight time in over 50 different types of aircraft and is currently flying the F-35 and F-16.

He is married to the former Evona Christensen. They have 6 children, (5 who are married) and 14 grandchildren.

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