



LIEUTENANT GENERAL SUSAN HELMS (USAF, RETIRED)

Lt Gen (Ret) Susan Helms is the creator and owner of an independent consulting company, Orbital Visions, LLC, in Colorado Springs, CO. She is also on the Board of Directors for Concho Resources, Inc. (CXO) and a Trustee for the Aerospace Corporation.

General Helms was commissioned from the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAF) in 1980 with a B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering, and she later earned an M.S. in Aeronautics and Astronautics from Stanford University. She is also a distinguished graduate of the USAF Test Pilot School (Flight Test Engineer Course). She has served as an F-15 and F-16 weapons separation engineer and as a flight test engineer for the CF-18 with the Canadian Forces in Cold Lake, Alberta. She has also commanded the 45th Space Wing, Patrick AFB/Cape Canaveral, FL, the 14th Air Force, and the Joint Functional Component Command for Space, U.S. Strategic Command. After almost 36 years of military service, she retired in 2014.

Selected by NASA in January 1990, General Helms became an astronaut in July 1991. On January 13, 1993, then an Air Force major and a member of the space shuttle Endeavour crew, she became the first U.S. military woman in space. She flew on STS-54 (1993), STS-64 (1994), STS-78 (1996), and STS-101 (2000), and served aboard the International Space Station as a member of the Expedition-2 crew (2001). A veteran of five space flights, General Helms has logged 211 days in space, including a spacewalk of eight hours and 56 minutes, a world record.

General Helms received the R.L. Jones Award for Top Engineer Graduate at the USAF Test Pilot School. She has also been recognized for her overall accomplishments in the space professional community including: Women of Aerospace Outstanding Achievement Award (2002), Thomas D. White Space Award for Outstanding Contributions to Space (2008), and Astronaut Hall of Fame Inductee (2011).