



Biography

Office of External Affairs, Strategic Defense Initiative Organization
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Lieutenant General George L. Monahan, Jr.
United States Air Force
Director, Strategic Defense Initiative Organization
February 1, 1989 - June 30, 1990

Lieutenant General George L. Monahan, Jr. is Director of the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. He is responsible to the President and The Secretary of Defense for managing, directing and selecting key research and development programs designed to eliminate the threat posed by strategic nuclear ballistic missiles and to increase the contribution of defensive systems to U.S. and allied security. In carrying out this mission, he provides overall policy direction and supervision for the conduct of research and development programs associated with the SDIO mission as well as oversight of the acquisition process for all SDI program requirements. In concert with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, he is also responsible for the review and development of strategy and policy implications of defensive capabilities.



General Monahan was born November 21, 1933, in Minneapolis and graduated from St. Thomas Academy, St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1951. He earned a bachelor of science degree from the U.S. Military Academy in 1955 and a master of science degree in electrical engineering from the University of New Hampshire in 1963. He completed Army Command and General Staff College in 1967 and the Air War College in 1972.

Upon graduation from the Military Academy he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air Force and in August 1955 reported to Moore Air Force Base, Texas, for primary pilot training. He received his pilot wings in August 1956 after completing basic pilot training at Greenville Air Force Base, Mississippi.

The general graduated from All-Weather Fighter-Interceptor School at Perrin Air Force Base, Texas, in February 1957 and was assigned to the 94th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, 1st Fighter Wing, Selfridge Air Force Base, Michigan, flying F-86s. In October 1958, he began serving as an air-electronics maintenance officer and functional check-flight pilot, first with the 1st Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and later with the 1st Armament and Electronics Maintenance Squadron at Selfridge. In March 1960, he was assigned to the 59th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, Goose Air Base, Labrador, where he performed similar duties.

After completing his master's degree through an Air Force Institute of Technology program at the University of New Hampshire, he was assigned to the 6555th Aerospace Test Wing, Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, in October 1963. While there General Monahan served as radio guidance and flight control officer on the Gemini launch crew at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, and was responsible for preflight installation and checkout of the radio guidance and flight control system of the Gemini launch vehicle. In March 1965, he returned to flying duties as a pilot, performing missions in support of the space and missile testing at Patrick's Air Force Eastern Test Range.

Upon graduation from Army Command and General Staff College in July 1967, he was assigned to the 63rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., where he completed RF-101 combat crew training. From January to March 1968, he attended Forward Air Controller School and O-1 combat crew training at Hurlburt Field, Florida.

General Monahan was assigned to the 20th Tactical Air Support Squadron, Da Nang Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, in April 1968, as a forward air controller in O-2As and completed 75 missions over North Vietnam. In October 1968, he transferred to the Directorate of Combat Tactics, Headquarters 7th Air Force, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, where he served as a forward air control tactics officer, flying combat missions in O-1s, O-2As and OV-10s throughout Southeast Asia.

He returned to the United States in April 1969 and was assigned as an operations staff officer in the Directorate of Operations, Tactical Control Division, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. There he was responsible for developing and implementing plans for enhanced night combat capability for forward air controllers in Vietnam, and managing their worldwide deployment. After graduating from the Air War College in June 1972, he was assigned to Aeronautical Systems Division, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, as chief of the Projects Division AGM-86A Subsonic Cruise Armed Decoy Program.

General Monahan then contributed to the development of the Air Force's newest fighter aircraft, the F-16. Under the deputy for prototypes, Aeronautical Systems Division, from June 1973 to August 1974, he managed the light-weight fighter (YF-16/YF-17) project, which culminated in successful prototype flights. He then served as the air combat fighter program assistant director, and in February 1975 he became the assistant deputy for F-16. The general became the first chief of the F-16 European Systems Program Office, Brussels, Belgium, in September 1975, establishing a European co-production management organization. He assumed command of the F-16 Contract Administration and Support Europe in August 1976 and was responsible for the establishment of the F-16 manufacturing and contracting organization for the United States, Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands and Norway.

In July 1978 the general was assigned as assistant deputy chief of staff for systems, Air Force Systems Command, Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland. He returned to the Aeronautical Systems Division, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, in August 1980 as the system program director for the F-16 multinational fighter program. During this tour of duty he directed development, testing and procurement of F-16s for the U.S. Air Force and nine allied nations' air forces.

The general was assigned as director of development and production, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development and Acquisition, Air Force headquarters, from August 1983 to July 1986. He then served as vice commander, Air Force Systems Command, Andrews Air Force Base. General Monahan was named the principal deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. in July 1987. The general assumed his present position in February 1989.

General Monahan is a command pilot with more than 3,500 hours flying time and 122 combat missions in Southeast Asia. His military decorations and awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with nine oak leaf clusters, and Air Force Commendation Medal.

He was promoted to lieutenant general July 1, 1986, with same date of rank.

(Current as of June 1990)

Update: Last Command: Director, Strategic Defense Initiative Organization
Retired: June 1990
Deceased: February 4, 1993