



General Kevin P. "Chili" Chilton is the Commander of the United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. He is responsible for the global command and control of U.S. strategic forces to meet decisive national security objectives. USSTRATCOM provides a broad range of strategic capabilities and options for the President and Secretary of Defense.

Command mission areas include full-spectrum global strike, space operations, computer network operations, Department of Defense information operations, strategic warning, integrated missile defense, global C4ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance), combating weapons of mass destruction, and providing specialized expertise to the joint warfighter.

A native of California, General Chilton is a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy Class of 1976. A Guggenheim Fellow, he completed a Master of Science degree in mechanical engineering at Columbia University. He is a command astronaut pilot with more than 5,000 flying hours in various aircraft. The general flew operational assignments in the RF-4C and F-15 in Japan, Korea, the Philippines, and bases in the U.S. A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School, he conducted weapons testing in various models of the F-4 and F-15 prior to joining the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1987.

At NASA, he logged more than 704 hours in space on three space shuttle missions: He was the pilot on STS-49 for the maiden voyage of Space Shuttle Endeavor (May 7-May 16, 1992), and STS-59 on the Space Radar Laboratory (SRL) mission (April 9-April 20, 1994). He commanded STS-76 on the third docking mission to the Russian space station Mir in 1996. He also served as the Deputy Program Manager for Operations for the International Space Station Program

The general has served on the Air Force Space Command Staff, the Air Staff, the Joint Staff, and commanded the 9th Reconnaissance Wing, 8th Air Force, Joint Functional Component Command for Space and Global Strike, and Air Force Space Command. He is the first former astronaut to achieve four-star rank.

His decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal with an oak leaf cluster, Defense Superior Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross, NASA Space Flight Medal with two oak leaf clusters, NASA Exceptional Service Medal, and the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal. He is also a recipient of NASA's "Top Fox" Flight Safety Award.

He and his wife, Brigadier General Catherine Chilton, are the parents of four children.