

Mark S. Gibson Vita



Mark Gibson grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in the inner city and attended Boy's Technical High School where he was trained as an electrician. He moved to Phoenix AZ where he worked for a general contracting firm. By the age of 21 Mr. Gibson returned to Milwaukee and worked for Allis Chalmers Corporation as a machine assembler for large turbo generators and motors. During this time he attended the Milwaukee School of Engineering. In 1975 he married Betsy Fry from Whittier California. In December of 1976 Mr. Gibson enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and received training for aircraft electronic counter measures system maintenance in Denver Co. He applied for and received a full Air Force scholarship to the University of Colorado in 1978. In 1981 then Sergeant Gibson graduated from college and attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned a second lieutenant. Through extra courses during college in astrodynamics, he qualified to become an aeronautical engineer for the Air Force as was assigned to Headquarters Space Division in El Segundo, Ca. There he was tasked with integrating the first free flying Air Force spacecraft into the Space Shuttle cargo bay. In 1984 Lt Gibson received a scholarship to earn a master degree in Space Systems Engineering and attend the Air Force Institute of Technology in Dayton Ohio. Capt Gibson graduated in 1981 with specialties in astrodynamics and spacecraft attitude control and dynamics. He then returned to HQ Space Division in California to develop system concepts for the Space Defense Systems associated with ballistic missile defense. He also served as the test director for the anti-satellite system. In 1992 Major Gibson left the Air Force to work in private industry with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) in multiple positions and locations including California, Arizona and Germany. In 2002 Mr. Gibson returned to government service with the Missile Defense Agency at the Pentagon and served as the Director for Verification and Assessment for all missile defense systems as part of the Directorate of Systems Engineering. In 2005 Mr. Gibson received an appointment to work on the staff of the new NASA administrator as the program analyst responsible for oversight of new Exploration Programs, to return man to the moon and beyond. He took early retirement in 2007 as a GS-15 for personal health reasons. Mr. Gibson began teaching at Germanna Community College in 2007 as an adjunct instructor in mathematics. In 2008, he received a full time appointment as the Engineering Program Director at Germanna Community College.

Education:

B.S. Mechanical Engineering, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1981

M.S. Space Systems Engineering, Air Force Institute of Technology, 1985