



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



BENJAMIN T. KNOWLES

Mr. Benjamin T. Knowles is the Director of Engineering, Propulsion Directorate, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Air Force Materiel Command, Tinker Air Force Base, OK. He is responsible for leading the technical execution of propulsion system development, acquisition, fielding, sustainment, and modernization across the Air Force to ensure warfighter readiness, innovation, safety, and effectiveness needs are met. He leads over 200 engineers and scientists managing more than 22,000 engines installed on over 30 different weapon systems in support of the U.S. Air Force and 51 international partners.

Mr. Knowles is responsible for training, equipping and developing engineering and scientific personnel across the directorate. He is also the airworthiness Delegated Technical Authority for all non-reportable modifications to propulsion systems and provides engineering and technical management direction for Operational Safety, Suitability and Effectiveness of all assets within the portfolio.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Knowles served as the Chief Engineer for the Propulsion Sustainment Division with engineering responsibility for Bomber, Tanker, Transport, Helicopter and Intelligence-Surveillance-Reconnaissance Engines, a portfolio worth over \$6B. He worked extensively with the FAA, industry, and System Program Office partners on commercial derivative and military unique platforms to include the KC-46, B-52 Commercial Engine Replacement Program, and numerous other advanced programs. Prior to that, he worked on fighter engine platforms bringing new capability and improving safety, readiness, and reliability through numerous engine upgrades. Mr. Knowles has over 24 years of technical propulsion experience spanning across every fielded engine series, aircraft, and mission. In addition, he has a broad background in technology development, testing, production, modifications, and sustainment.

EDUCATION

2000 Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma

2005 Master of Science, Engineering and Technology Management, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma

CAREER CHRONOLOGY

2000 – 2007, F100 & TF39 Aerospace Engineer, Propulsion, 448 Combat Sustainment Wing, Tinker AFB, OK

2007 – 2012, F110 & Tech Transition Systems Engineer, Propulsion, 448 Combat Sustainment Wing, Tinker AFB, OK

2012 – 2017, F100 & F135 Lead Engineer, Propulsion, 448 Combat Sustainment Wing, Tinker AFB, OK

2017 – 2022, F119 & F107 Lead Systems Engineer, Propulsion Sustainment Division, AFLCMC/LPS, Tinker AFB, OK

2022 – 2024, Chief Engineer, Propulsion Sustainment Division, AFLCMC/LPS, Tinker AFB, OK

2024 – Present, Director of Engineering, Propulsion Directorate, AFLCMC/LP, Tinker AFB, OK

AWARDS AND HONORS

2023 Critical Engineering Position Award, AFLCMC & AFMC

2022 Chief Engineer of the Year Award, AFLCMC, Engineering Directorate

2022 Organizational: Air and Space Organization Excellence Award

2019 Technical Leadership, AFLCMC, Engineering Directorate (Finalist)

2016 Technical Leadership, AFLCMC, Engineering Directorate (Finalist)

2012 Distinguished Alumni Award, Oklahoma Christian University, Mechanical Engineering Department

2008 Team: AFMC General Bernard P. Randolph Award

2006 Engineer of the Year, 448 Combat Sustainment Wing, Director of Propulsion Awards (Finalist)

(Current as of Jun 2026)