

VITA

Lieutenant Colonel Stephen G. Atkins, USAF was born on the 22nd of October, 1955 on Camp Pendleton near San Diego, California. He attended Indiana University in Bloomington. After completing an A.B. in Astronomy and finishing the Air Force ROTC program as a Distinguished Graduate, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. He served four years as a satellite launch pad safety manager at the Air Force's Western Test Range (WTR) then studied foreign anti-satellite launch operations for two years at the Air Force's Foreign Technology Division. Selected for graduate study in human factors, he completed a Master's in Industrial Engineering at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona (entering the Air Force's Behavioral Science career field). His follow-on assignment to Air Force Space Command's manned spaceflight future plans branch initiated his involvement in single-case and quasi-experimental design (in this case – the design of astronaut performance experiments for the Space Shuttle). He also assisted with the transition of Air Force launch pads at WTR and Cape Canaveral to Air Force Space Command control and worked launch pad-related funding issues in the Pentagon. In 1989, he sought a career-broadening tour in race/gender relations. Serving in this capacity for two years in Wiesbaden, Germany led to his interest in the experimental study of prejudice and stereotypes. Selected for graduate study in Industrial/Organizational Psychology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPI/SU), Lieutenant Colonel Atkins pursued research in racist attitude measurement and racism effects on recall in performance appraisal tasks. Nominated by faculty members as seventh-ranked among seventy graduate psychology students, he graduated from VPI/SU as an inductee of the school's cross-discipline honor society (a chapter of Phi Kappa Phi – signifying the top ten percent of graduate school and university). Upon completion of his Ph.D., he was promoted to Assistant Professor of Research Methods and Personnel Policy Analysis at the Air Force Institute of Technology's graduate management school. Since 1978, he has been married to Erica R. Atkins, M.A.Ed. – they have one child (as of 1997).