

# Craig D. Blackburn

CRAIGDBLACKBURN@GMAIL.COM

I [REDACTED] I

LINKEDIN.COM/IN/CRAIGDBLACKBURN

## Program Manager & Systems Engineer

Accomplished acquisition Program Manager with a proven ability to lead complex technical programs while actively managing budgets and schedules • Respected leader with advanced academic credentials, a breadth of cross-industry engineering experience and a depth of Program Management and Systems Engineering expertise

*Program Manager (Level 3, DAU, COTR Level 3)*

*Systems Engineer (Level 3, DAU)*

*Manages Agile Software Development*

*COTR experience on major NRO contracts*

*Cleared TS//SCI with CI Poly*

*Passion for working with DoD, NRO, & IC teams*

*Military, Civilian & FFRDC leadership experience*

*Polished communicator & business strategist*

## National Reconnaissance Office Experience; Chantilly, VA

September 2011 – July 2016; May 2018 - Present

### *Division Chief, SIGINT Directorate; GG-15 [14 June 2021 – Present]*

- Directs a team of US Government employees and supporting staff in delivering unique portfolio of space and ground capabilities; Supervisor and 2<sup>nd</sup> level Supervisor
- Program Manager for a high-visibility Major System Acquisition to deliver a revolutionary new constellation to meet a long-standing DoD and Intelligence Community need; executed study contracts, Analysis of Alternatives, oversight End-to-End review; garnered approval of a Final Statement of Capabilities; drafted millions of dollars Acquisition Strategy; executed competitive down-select; facilitated independent reviews, brought program to Milestone B.
- Division Chief for developing and delivering a new fast-paced and low-cost demonstration satellite for an emerging and high-interest new mission area, engineering solution with stakeholders to ensure data is usable for operations.
- Division Chief for System Program Office ground program, ensuring mission management and mission processing needs of unique Division and SPO programs are met; collaborates with enterprise ground stakeholders to ensure alignment where programmatically and technically practical.
- Leads the development of strategies to provide space based intelligence systems and solutions to advance mission, while ensuring Division programs meet cost, schedule, and technical commitments.
- Additional Directorate & SPO Leadership Responsibilities – Directorate representative to the Technical Career Field Board to improve the technical workforce; led SPO hiring and planning for civilian vacancies; managed SPO civilian development program; Ambassador and acquisition Career Field Manager support.

### *Legislative Liaison, BPO & GED; Chantilly, VA; GG-14 and GG-15 [June 2020 – June 2021]*

- Legislative Liaison for the Ground Enterprise portfolio, responsible for engagements and communication with six authorizations and appropriations Congressional oversight committees.
- Authored several Congressional Notifications and responses to high visibility Congressional Directed Actions to improve collaboration and partnership across portfolio leaders and oversight.
- Executed multiple Senior engagements, including Office Calls with key Congresspersons for DNRO as part of the outreach campaign to the 117th Congress.
- Led numerous engagements from committee Professional Staff Members to provide updates on staffer & member interest items, enabling a foundation of understanding going into the budget year.

# Craig D. Blackburn

CRAIGDBLACKBURN@GMAIL.COM

I [REDACTED] I

LINKEDIN.COM/IN/CRAIGDBLACKBURN

## *Program Manager/Deputy PM, GG-13 [Aug 2014– Jul 2016] & GG-14, GED [May 2018 – May 2020]*

- Directs a government support contractor staff as well as a development contractor staff with a Multi- $\$$ M budget. Responsible for acquiring, designing, developing and delivering a next-generation mission management and command and control framework optimizing constellation performance for the GEOINT enterprise. Leads cross-organizational capability transition planning for GEOINT Ground Mission Control with the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) & represents GEOINT Ground Mission Control for long range planning to Intelligence Community counterparts.
- Major duties include: engineering authority for incorporation of major new missions and changes to the technical program baseline, leading a cross-contractor agile software development and integration effort; directing and implementing sound engineering process; serving as the contracting officer technical representative; organizing and executing a risk management process; aligning enterprise acquisition schedules and deliveries; executing baseline reviews and engineering change proposals, and planning/budgeting future capability insertion.

## *Program Manager & Systems Engineer (Captain, O-3; 62E), GED; [Sep 2011 – Aug 2014]*

- *Deputy Chief* - Directed staff responsible for a RADAR Satellite Mission Control Ground System, managing a Multi- $\$$ M annual budget and leading development & maintenance contractors. Collaborates with Navy & Intelligence Community stakeholders to define requirements & deliver key surveillance capabilities. Led a technical, financial & risk management review of the contractor's baseline & earned value performance to project expected performance & contact feasibility.
- *Program Manager* - Managed a Multi- $\$$ M portfolio of SIGINT mission management systems currently in operations for thousands of users; to include the virtualization and upgrade of HW/SW assets across multiple developers and ground sites. These systems include: the primary means for all Overhead SIGINT tasking, collection and requirements' traceability; situational awareness for all SIGINT & Multi-INT capabilities; and assessment of SIGINT tasking to execution requirements satisfaction. Led development efforts for next-gen Multi-INT Situational Awareness Mission Management.

## Federally Funded Research & Development Center – Experience

MITRE (1 year, 10 months); McLean, VA

August 2016 – May 2018

## *Lead Systems Engineer (Level 4)*

- Task Lead for DoD customer to converge provisioning of Information Technology services to under one provider. Delivered a cross-command analysis of services, developed a strategy for executing a Pilot, authored a master Test Plan, and engaged stakeholders to secure support and initiate pilot. Accountability for providing the right skill mix and meeting the customer's task objectives.
- Task Lead on acquisition and systems engineering for next generation DoD tactical program. Responsible for concept design, requirements engineering, and risk reduction activities. Provided updated program plans and updated budget position, considering cost, schedule and performance considerations. Crafted initial System Requirements to ensure cost efficient materiel solutions meet customer needs. Developed a strategy for prioritized phased risk reduction efforts. Accountability for providing the right skill mix and meeting the customer's task objectives.

# Craig D. Blackburn

[CRAIGDBLACKBURN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CRAIGDBLACKBURN@GMAIL.COM)

|  |

[LINKEDIN.COM/IN/CRAIGDBLACKBURN](https://www.linkedin.com/in/craigdblackburn)

## Electronic Systems Center – United States Air Force

**Hanscom Air Force Base; Bedford, MA**

July 2009 – September 2011

*Airborne SATCOM SEIT Deputy IPT Lead; (1st Lieutenant, O-2)*

- Deputy Lead - Managed systems engineering, integration & test team for Family of Advanced Beyond Line-of-Sight Communications Terminal (FAB-T) Program Office. Oversaw all aspects of specialty engineering for the design, integration & test of nuclear survivable, strategic military satellite communications program. Directed test planning and integration with Navy, Army, and Air Force platforms across a test community of hundreds.

## Other Industry Experience

**Ford Motor Company (~0.25 years); Dearborn, MI**

Summer 2008

*Manufacturing & Process Engineer*

- Led the process & facilities changeovers for the 2008 to 2009 F-150 Door Line at the Dearborn Truck Plant; & worked in a three-person team to develop a 10,000+ testing procedure for the SYNC system.

**ExxonMobil Production Company (~0.25 years); Houston, TX**

Summer 2007

*Instrumentation & Electrical Engineer*

- Developed a Best Practice for Factory Acceptance Testing of controls systems within the Production Projects Group. Delivered testing procedure templates for project managers and engineers.

**Lean Advancement Initiative (~1.5 years); Cambridge, MA**

August 2007 – June 2009

*Research Assistant*

- Led the Metrics research area; worked with an Aerospace and Defense industry consortium to provide insight and guidance for how companies can best leverage metrics and measurement systems to drive transformation at both corporate and program levels.

## Education

**MIT** – Masters of Science in Aeronautics & Astronautics, 2009; Cambridge, MA

**MIT** – Masters of Science in Technology & Policy, 2009; Cambridge, MA

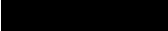
**Penn State** – Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering, 2007; University Park, PA

## Publications – Sponsored by MIT's Lead Advancement Initiative

*Journal Papers*

# Craig D. Blackburn

[CRAIGDBLACKBURN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CRAIGDBLACKBURN@GMAIL.COM)

|  |

[LINKEDIN.COM/IN/CRAIGDBLACKBURN](https://www.linkedin.com/in/craigdblackburn)

1. Leveraging Measurement Systems to Drive Enterprise Transformation: Two Case Studies from the U.S. Aerospace Industry; Valerdi, Ricardo and Blackburn, Craig; Information, Knowledge and Systems Management; 2010; vol. 9, no. 2, pp 77-97.
2. Enterprises as Systems: Context, Boundaries and Practical Implications; Valerdi, Ricardo, Nightingale, Deborah and Blackburn, Craig; Information, Knowledge and Systems Management; 2008; vol. 7, no. 4, pp. 377-399.

## *Conference Papers*

3. The Human Element of Decision Making in Systems Engineers: A Focus on Optimism; Valerdi, Ricardo and Blackburn, Craig; International Conference on Systems Engineering (INCOSE); July 2009.
4. Practical Implementation of an Enterprise Measurement System: From Inception to Transformation; Blackburn, Craig and Valerdi, Ricardo; Conference on Systems Engineering Research (CSER); April 2009.
5. Navigating the Metrics Landscape: An Introductory Guide to Metrics Selection, Implementation & Decision Making; Blackburn, Craig and Valerdi, Ricardo; Conference on Systems Engineering Research (CSER); April 2009.
6. Measuring Systems Engineering Success: Insights from Baseball; Blackburn, Craig and Valerdi, Ricardo; International Conference on Systems Engineering (INCOSE); June 2008.

## Awards

- NRO Innovation and Achievement Awards (2022, x2)
- National Reconnaissance Office Employee of the Year, Senior Civilian Technical, 2019
- National Reconnaissance Office Employee of the Quarter, Senior Civilian Technical, 4Q2018
- NRO Ground Enterprise Directorate Employee of the Quarter, Senior Civilian Technical, 1Q2015
- NRO Air Force Element, CGO of the Quarter, 2Q2013
- NRO Ground Enterprise Directorate Employee of the Quarter, CGO Technical, 1Q2013
- NRO Ground Enterprise Directorate Employee of the Quarter, CGO Technical, 2Q2012
- Director of National Intelligence Level Team Awards
- 2014 Intelligence Community Major System Acquisition Team Award
- 2014 Intelligence Community Science and Technology Team Award
- NRO Air Force Element Company Grade Officer of the Quarter (2013)
- Engineer of the Quarter, Military 4X (2010-2011), Division Level
- Engr & Tech Mgmt Jr Military Engineer of 2010, Space & Nuclear Networks Division
- Company Grade Officer of the Quarter, Junior (2010), 653rd Electronic Systems Wing
- Company Grade Officer of the Quarter 2X (Junior 2010, Senior 2011), Division Level

## Technology Skills

Proficient in Microsoft technologies and Office Suites, Project, Excel, Word, and Adobe Acrobat; well versed in agile software development methodologies