

MILCOM:08

ASSURING MISSION SUCCESS

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Frank Prautzsch

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Director, Rapid Initiative Group
Raytheon Company

Frank Prautzsch is a director within the newly formed Rapid Initiatives Group (RIG) in Raytheon Network Centric Systems (NCS). The NCS business develops and produces mission solutions for networking, command and control, battlespace awareness, and air traffic management. Most of his focus is in the latest generation of communication systems for subsurface, surface, ground, airborne and space applications, mobile and fixed base satellite communications terminals, wireless networks, identification systems, and laser communications. His RIG work focuses upon developing solutions to fulfill mission-critical needs within 60 to 90 days or less. Prautzsch also leads Raytheon's alternative energy pursuits.

Before joining Raytheon, Prautzsch served 22 years in the U.S. Army and five years with Hughes Space and Communications Company/Boeing Satellite Systems. While on active duty, he held a variety of command, staff, and engineering positions throughout the Army Signal Corps and the Military Satellite Communications (MILSATCOM) community. He served on numerous Joint Task Force, Army and contingency missions in all environments and was instrumental in defining many of the Army's MILSATCOM Concepts of Operations. He subsequently served on the Army staff in the Pentagon overseeing MILSATCOM and GPS programs and later served as architecture development team lead on the DoD MILSATCOM Architecture under the space architect.

Within Hughes/BSS, he was instrumental in the development of a company-wide MILSATCOM campaign which precipitated in Wideband Global Satellite program and other Hughes MILSATCOM efforts.

Within Raytheon, Prautzsch stays on the forefront of advanced technologies and concepts involving communications and sensors with focus upon satellite communications and networks, aerostats and airships, and tailored payloads on aircraft, helicopters and ultra-lites.

Prautzsch has a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, is a distinguished graduate of the Marine Corps Signal Advanced Course, Army Airborne School, Ranger School, and Command and General Staff College. He also holds a master's degree from Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., with a degree in systems technology (C3) and space.