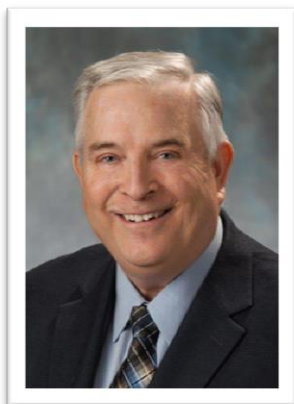


Dr. Michael S. Francis
Chief, Advanced Programs
Senior Fellow, Autonomous and Intelligent Systems



Biographical Profile

Michael S. Francis, Ph.D. is Chief, Advanced Programs, and Senior Fellow at United Technologies Research Center (UTRC), where he focuses on developing and guiding the development of advanced aerospace technologies, including autonomous and intelligent systems, and unmanned vehicles. He also provides strategic planning guidance to United Technologies Corp. (UTC) businesses.

Prior to joining UTRC in 2009, Francis spent more than 40 years working in a diverse array of advanced aviation, space and defense positions and programs – 27 of them with the U.S. Air Force (USAF) where he attained the rank of Colonel. Since retiring from the Air Force in 1997, he has served in a variety of executive and leadership positions in government (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency - DARPA) and industry (Aurora Flight Sciences, Lockheed Martin, and General Atomics) research and development organizations. He is best known for his role in leading several pioneering aviation programs, including the X-31 Enhanced Maneuverability Fighter, the Micro Air Vehicle, the Unmanned Combat Air Vehicle, and the Joint DARPA-USAF-Navy Unmanned Combat Air Systems programs.

An American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Fellow and distinguished lecturer, Francis is involved in many professional activities, serving on NASA's Advisory Committee on Aeronautics, as well as the editorial board of *Aerospace America*. He recently served on the National Research Council's study on Autonomy for Civil Aviation. Previously, he sat on the AIAA's Board of Directors and founded its Unmanned Systems Program Committee. He has published more than 45 articles in aerospace and defense journals, books and periodicals, and has received numerous government, military and professional awards and honors throughout his career, including the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum Trophy; the German Aerospace Society (DGLR) "*Ehrennadel der Deutschen Luftfahrt*" Medal; AIAA Distinguished Service Award; and the Aviation Week & Space Technology Aerospace Laurels Award.

Francis holds B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in aerospace engineering sciences from the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado.