

SOCIETY FOR MILITARY PSYCHOLOGY

Presents this 2019 Presidential Citation to
Colonel (Retired) Tom Williams, PhD

For his leadership, mentorship, and research within NASA and DoD to mitigate risks to health and sustain performance.

As the Element Scientist for the Human Factors and Behavioral Performance (HFBP) research at NASA, Dr. Williams directs a multi-disciplined team of scientists focused on human factors in spaceflight in the areas of habitability, mission processes and tasks, human automation robotic interactions, dynamic loads, and training. He also examines spaceflight risks related to behavioral medicine, sleep and fatigue, and team performance. The task of this research team is to mitigate critical risks to human health and performance on long-duration space expeditions. Dr. Williams ensures that human research also focuses on the development of protective countermeasures to enable humans to live and work safely and effectively in space. Dr. Williams led the development of a fully integrated research plan, which addresses three high-priority risk factors impacting crew health and performance, and are believed to be synergistically related: space radiation, isolation, and microgravity exposure on long-duration missions.

In order to ensure that the work remains operationally-relevant and actionable, Dr. Williams has established ties within the DoD. He leveraged his previous experience as a Past-President for Division 19 and a program leader at the US Army War College, in addition to his experience as an early practitioner and leader in operational psychology for the US Army. Dr. Williams established partnerships with DoD agencies concerned with similar problem sets, leading to valuable exchanges of information between the agencies on operationally important topics such as sleep and CO2 risk mitigation, as well as the importance of neurobehavioral assessment in the selection of high performance personnel. Dr. Williams brings a unique blend of science, ethics, and operational experience to his work, always maintaining a morale compass with the highest standards for the best outcome. Through his collaborative efforts with the DoD, he ensures that key operational risks in spaceflight draws upon the work in related areas done by military researchers, and will inform future work within the DoD and the operational products that are developed for use.

For a number of years, Dr. Williams has demonstrated steadfast service to the Society for Military Psychology. As well as being a Past-President, he is the recipient of the Distinguished Mentor Award, and is a mentor to leaders in the Society for future strategic planning.

For his strategic leadership in operational and military psychology and collaboration in aerospace, operational, and military psychology to ensure the continued exchange and development of information related to operational performance and health, I, Stephen V. Bowles, take great pleasure in presenting the Society for Military Psychology Presidential Citation to Dr. Tom Williams.

Stephen V. Bowles, PhD, ABPP
President, Society for Military Psychology

