

## Kent Christensen



Upon graduation from California State University, Fullerton with a degree in Operation Management, Kent commenced his career in the aerospace industry as an employee of the former Douglas Aircraft Company in Long Beach, CA.

His first assignment was working in the Electrical Systems group for the DC-9 series aircraft. In this capacity he was given the task of implementing a C-Spec program into the commercial operations of the company. Though C-Spec was a familiar discipline for military programs, it was new to the commercial side of the company – and it was not well received. Kent quickly learned that decrees of upper management are not always received warmly by the foot soldiers. Additionally, having been given the task of training the engineers this new costing program, he quickly was overcome with remorse for the elementary school teachers who had to have him as a student.

When the Company announced the development of a new aircraft, the MD-80, Kent transferred to Production Control group. While with this group, Kent was assigned to support the flight test program of the MD-80. In this capacity, Kent worked with the Liaison Engineers to convert a manufacturing flow that would support the parallel effort of building the DC-9 legacy series aircraft and the much upgraded MD-80.

Because Kent was tasked to focus on the assembly of the cockpit of the MD-80, he became quite familiar with the test pilots. It was through these associations that Kent career took a turn he never expected – but turned out to be better than he could have planned.

Kent was offered a position with the Flight Crew Training Group. Here he worked with the training department in developing initial and recurrent training for in-house Douglas pilots as well as pilots for commercial and military products. The commercial aircraft included the DC-8, DC-9, DC-10 and the military aircraft were the A-4 Sky Hawk, the KC-10 Extender, and the C-17 Globemaster III. It was in this assignment that Kent learned the value of training in and the use of simulators.

Other programs and assignment Kent has been associated include:

- Test Conductor of the North Vandenberg Air Force Base facilities for supporting Space Shuttle launch and recovery operations.
- Flight test planner for the B-1B and B-2 (Stealth) aircraft at Palmdale and Edwards Air Force Base.
- Test conductor for final systems testing of Space Shuttle Endeavor at Palmdale

Kent is currently employed as the Engineering Planner for the Advance EHF program at Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company in Sunnyvale.

His other interests include SCUBA Diving, Backpacking, Fly Fishing, and Sky Diving. Additionally, Kent is a volunteer Chaplain at the Stanford Medical Center and plays cello with a local symphony.