
Thomas J. Beutner, Ph.D.



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Dr. Thomas Beutner is Director of the Aerospace Sciences Research Division in the Air Warfare and Weapons Department of the Office of Naval Research (ONR) in Arlington, Virginia. He serves as the senior focal point within the ONR for discovery and innovation investments in air platform and weapons research that enable enhanced performance, affordability and reliability for future Navy and Marine Corps air systems and platforms. Dr. Beutner oversees research and development in the areas of hypersonics, directed energy weapons, rotary wing aerodynamics, energetic materials, autonomous controls and propulsion, as well as the development of computational and experimental tools for future engineering design efforts.

Dr. Beutner entered the Senior Executive Service in February 2010. From 2005-2010, he managed advanced technology aircraft and ship programs at DARPA, including programs in laminar flow, oblique flying wings, aero-optics integration, submarine launched UAVs and hydrodynamic friction drag reduction programs. In this role, he led fundamental work to advance simulations including multiphase and polymer flows, aero-optics simulations, and aeroelasticity control approaches. He also led systems-level integration efforts for advanced aircraft demonstration projects. Between 1999-2005, he led the Turbulence and Rotating Flows program at the Air Force Office of Scientific Research. In that role, he managed the Air Force investment in basic research in turbulence modeling, flow control and turbomachinery flows. From 1993-1999, he worked at the Air Force Research Laboratory where he led the development of laser-based wind tunnel velocimetry systems.

Dr. Beutner holds a bachelor's of science in aeronautical engineering from Purdue University and a master's of science and doctorate in aeronautics and astronautics from Stanford University. He was named an Outstanding Aerospace Alumni by Purdue University in 2007.

Dr. Beutner has published research in aerodynamic measurement technologies and computational fluid dynamics validation. He is a Professional Engineer, registered in Ohio, and a member of ASME. He is an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and serves as Deputy Director of the Aerospace Sciences Group.

