



# BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Program Manager; (Space Propulsion and Power)

## Mitat A. Birkan

### EDUCATION

- Ph.D** University of Colorado at Boulder,  
Department of Mechanical Engineering
- M.S.** Technical University of Istanbul,  
Department of Materials Science
- B.S.** Technical University of Istanbul,  
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

### CAREER NARRATIVE

**Program Manager, Space Propulsion and Power**  
Certified Level III Acquisition Professional of Systems Planning, Research, Development, and Engineering,  
**The United States Air Force Office of Scientific Research**  
**Professorial Lecturer, The George Washington University, Civil, Mechanical and Environmental Engineering**

Dr. Mitat A. Birkan is the program manager of Space Propulsion and Power program. He is responsible for the Air Force basic research program in space propulsion, assuring the excellence and relevance of a broad research portfolio. The research includes electric propulsion, chemical rocket propulsion, plume signature characterization and contamination. He plans, coordinates and executes a research program conducted by the country's most eminent scientists in academia, industry, and in Air Force laboratories. He is widely known for his contributions in the areas of two-phase combusting flows, perturbation techniques, mathematical modeling of detonations and explosions. Dr. Birkan has authored more than twenty five technical papers in the areas of combustion and space propulsion.

### AWARDS AND HONORS

University of Colorado Distinguished Engineering Alumni, 2011; Turkish Scientific and Technical Research Council's Scholarship Award

### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Sigma Xi, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics