



# Kevin Fryar

## Chief of Staff



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### What does the Chief of Staff do?

My role is to lead the Program's office staff, track and close out staff actions, and facilitate communication between the Projects and the Program Office. So, who are the Projects? The Projects have distinct roles in satellite system development, product generation, and distribution. The Program provides oversight, guidance, and direction to the Projects.

### How is your job a space job?

I have the opportunity to oversee user engagement and prioritize needs and instrument selection for development, meaning I help pick what goes into space. That's important because the Program has to decide what resources should be placed against those prioritized needs.

### What kind of impact does your job have?

Geostationary weather satellite data is critical in the forecasts we use every day. Weather impacts all of us and the watches, warnings, and advisories are developed with that same satellite data. We actually use satellite data every day when we check the weather on our TVs and phones. Over 90% of the data that goes into our weather models is from satellites. Before satellites, most weather observations were captured by weather balloons, which required a lot of manpower; someone needed to fill each balloon with helium and release it. Hours often passed between measurements. Satellites helped fill in those time gaps.

### What was one of the biggest challenges you've faced and overcome in becoming a Satellite Program Chief of Staff?

Language. During my career, I've had to learn six distinct languages associated with my job, my colleagues, and my career field. In the military, each service speaks its own language. Within the federal



Kevin Fryar and NASA colleague sitting at broadcast desk during the GOES-T launch event.

government, you will find that each agency can have its own language as well. Coming from the National Weather Service I had to digest a whole new set of acronyms and phraseology, and I'm still learning.

### What were your interests when you were growing up?

I was into sports, comic books, science, and reading. I'm still a big history and sci-fi fan.

### What are some of the classes you should take to become a Satellite Program Chief of Staff?

My position is more a result of various work experiences and course knowledge. What I've found that still applies from school are things like understanding chemical and physical relationships between materials. In my role, understanding the atmosphere and what observable elements impact our daily lives is key. Those observations inform scientists and leaders that make life-changing decisions. Whether it is issuing a hurricane warning or an environmental policy.