



## **Steven H. Conston**

### **Member, Campaign Leadership Council**

Steve graduated from Rutgers University in 1975 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. Although his 42-year career has primarily spanned Aerospace and Defense, he also has experience in e-beam lithography for semiconductor processing, microprocessor in-circuit emulation, and biotechnology.

Most recently Steve was a Systems Engineering Manager for BD Biosciences in San Jose, CA. There he championed systems engineering processes which were adopted by both engineers and biologists. These processes helped create an environment where requirements for new projects were validated using a more rigorous process than had been used before, resulting in requirements that were achievable, quantifiable, and testable. Steve was also trained in and a champion for Design for Six Sigma. Prior to his management role, Steve was involved in the development and testing of BD's FACSPresto™, a portable battery-operated CD4 T-lymphocyte and total hemoglobin analyzer for monitoring HIV patients in remote areas of the world.

Steve began his career working for Lockheed Electronics, in North Plainfield, NJ where he designed circuits for several Navy programs including the MK86 Gunfire Control System and the AIMS IFF (Identification Friend/Foe) Antenna System. While at Lockheed he also helped develop the Beacon Collision Avoidance System (BCAS), an early version of collision avoidance for commercial aircraft, under an R&D contract with the FAA.

During Steve's employment with TRW in Redondo Beach, CA and later their subsidiary Electromagnetic Systems Laboratories (ESL) in Sunnyvale, CA, he was involved with wide-ranging projects including a communications system node between NASA ground stations and the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System (TDRSS), ground based and airborne tactical reconnaissance systems, and programs supporting Foreign Military Sales (FMS) where he gained significant experience working with engineers and scientists from another nation. At ESL Steve designed a militarized microprocessor-based board set that became a common processor design used in several major programs. He also served as Integration and Test Manager for an airborne and a ground-based signals intelligence system.

Steve was recruited by GTE/Sylvania in Mountain View, CA to join their Army Business Unit as a systems engineer supporting proposals and R&D projects. At GTE he managed a proposal and also developed a concept for utilizing GTE's expertise in signal processing to create opportunities for partnering with another company's technologies in producing a sensor fusion application for Army helicopters.

Steve joined Kaiser Electronics in San Jose, CA as the systems engineer for the F/A-18 Hornet C/D version cockpit displays. He gained substantial experience with helmet mounted displays (HMD) while managing and developing state-of-the-art test equipment for Kaiser's Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System (JHMCS) the world's first large scale production HMD, operational with 20 air forces worldwide. While a principal systems engineer for the Comanche helicopter HMD, Steve developed software algorithms to characterize and test the display system and presented a paper on the subject in 2002 at SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics. When an opportunity arose, Steve joined Vision Systems International (VSI) in San Jose, CA, a joint venture between Kaiser Electronics (acquired by Rockwell Collins in 2002) and Elbit Systems of America, as a principal systems engineer for the Joint Strike Fighter HMD where he was responsible for requirements management and testing with emphasis on Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) of the system.

In retirement, Steve has become involved with genealogy and researching his family roots. Steve also has enjoyed club auto sports (rally, autocross, and time trial), photography, and astronomy. He currently lives in San Jose with his wife, Tammy, and two cats. Steve and Tammy have two sons, Adam and Jacob. Jacob was a Regents Scholar and graduated from UC Davis in 2015 with highest honors in Cell Biology and is completing his master's thesis at UC Davis in Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology.