



The Columbia Shuttle Accident Investigation

Dr. Larry Butkus

Air Force Research Laboratory

Friday, February 13, 2009

11:00 AM

Patton Auditorium

Benton Hall

Dr. Larry Butkus leads the Structural Materials Evaluation Team in the Materials Integrity Branch, Systems Support Division, Materials & Manufacturing Directorate, Air Force Research Laboratory, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. He entered federal civil service in 2007 following 21 years as an active duty Air Force officer during which he served in numerous technical assignments. He has investigated the durability of polymer-matrix composites, the thermomechanical behavior of ceramic composites, and the effects of environmental exposure on adhesively bonded joints. Dr. Butkus led the F118 Engine Integrated Product Team supporting the B-2 *Spirit* and U-2S *Dragon Lady*. As a member of the USAF Academy faculty, he served in multiple capacities including department executive officer, associate professor, materials division chief, and deputy for curriculum. In his last active duty assignment, Dr. Butkus served as the deputy for the USAF's Aircraft Structural Integrity Program that ensures the structural safety for over 5,000 aircraft. Dr. Butkus was temporarily assigned in 2003 as an investigator supporting the Columbia Accident Investigation Board. Dr. Butkus holds bachelors, masters, and doctorate degrees in mechanical engineering from M.I.T, the University of Michigan, and Georgia Tech, respectively.