

# **ENGINEERING**

## **- A Noble Profession**

**Ralph Dergance, Program Director**  
**Shades of Blue Engineering Workshops**  
**303.795.9475**  
**[rhdergance@msn.com](mailto:rhdergance@msn.com)**

# Who Am I?

- Education: Aeronautical Engineering and Business Management degrees from CU Boulder - 1964
- Retired from Lockheed Martin in 1999 after 36+ year career
- Career Highlights:
  - Intern with Martin Marietta for Six Summers During High School & College
  - Launch Vehicle and Spacecraft Propulsion Engineer – Analysis, Design, Test, Hardware Development
  - Vehicle Systems Engineer
  - Chief Systems Engineer on Robotic Program
  - Chief Engineer on SICBM Post Boost Vehicle
  - Principal Investigator on Many Independent Research & Development Projects
  - Program Manager
  - New Business Development
  - Competitive Proposal Creation and Management
  - Personnel Management
  - Subcontract Management and Procurement

# Engineering Definition

- The creative application of scientific principles and mathematics to design or develop structures, machines, apparatus, or manufacturing processes, or works utilizing them singly or in combination; or to construct or operate the same with full cognizance of their design; or to forecast their behavior under specific operating conditions; all with respect to an intended function, economics of operation, and safety for life and property.

*American Engineers' Council for Professional Development*

Or, Simply Stated

- THE APPLICATION OF SCIENTIFIC, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE IN ORDER TO INVENT, DESIGN, BUILD, TEST, OPERATE, MAINTAIN, AND IMPROVE EVERYTHING.

# ENGINEERING Recipe

- S - Scientist
- T - Technician
- E - Eager/Energetic
- M - Mathematician

# **Necessary ATTRIBUTES To Be An ENGINEER**

- **CURIOSITY** – how do things work?
  - **INQUISITIVE**
  - **INTERESTED**
- **CALCULATING** – must like math, numbers
- **CAREFUL** – don't make mistakes
- **CONSERVATIVE** – calculated “safe” risks
- **CHALLENGED** – always want to improve
- **CONSCIENTIOUS** – really care
- **COMMITMENT** – make it happen
- **COOPERATIVE** – be a **TEAM** player

# Educational Requirements

- Science and Mathematics Throughout Primary and Secondary Schools
- Sample Available Courses in Different Engineering Fields
  - Architecture
  - Aeronautics/Aerospace
  - Chemical
  - Civil
  - Computer Sciences/Software
  - Electrical/Electronics
  - Mechanical
  - Systems Engineering
- Attend Special Classes and Camps that are Available (e.g. Shades of Blue)
- Take Advantage of Available Internships – WE CAN HELP YOU
- Use the Internet – It is All There
  - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Engineering> is a good start
- Attend a College/University with Excellent Engineering Credentials

# Career Avenues

- Analysis – determine the item's requirements
- Design – define the item
- Development – determine that it works
- Test – verify its performance, reliability, etc.
- Manufacturing – build the final product
- Operations – run it
- Research – find new, better ways to do it
- All of the above

# **Some Representative Results of First-Class Engineering**



# **The Bottom Line**

- **Everything Must to be “Engineered”**
- **Start Now**
- **Focus**
- **Learn All You Can**
- **Make the World a Better Place**

**Above all, Have Fun!**