



SYSTEMS SYPOSIUM 2026

November 16-20, 2026

Monterey, California

Panel Member

Barry W. Cole

Program Manager, Griffin Program

Air Force Research Laboratory

Mr. Barry W. Cole is the Program Manager for the Griffin program at the Air Force Research Laboratory at Kirtland AFB, NM working to demonstrate a multi-layered high energy laser weapon system for asset, point, and area defense. Mr. Cole is responsible for planning, programming, and program execution for high-energy laser demonstration programs to bring the technology into size, weight, and power and cost constraints at appropriate readiness levels to enable future Department of War combat capability needs.

Mr. Cole first joined the Air Force in June of 1988 as an Air Force Academy cadet. After attending Undergraduate Space Training at Lowry AFB, CO he performed space operations and engineering duties in the Second Space Operations Squadron and the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center where he also served as the Test Lead for GPS and GPS III. Mr. Cole served in a nuclear alert and training capacity at Malmstrom AFB, MT. Mr. Cole is a certified US Air Force Academic Instructor and served in that capacity at Maxwell AFB, Officer Training School. He finished his military career as the Chief of Space Safety for the Department of the Air Force. Later, at the Nuclear Weapons Center on Kirtland AFB, NM he served as a systems engineer as well as a scientist and engineer recruiting lead and built a mentoring program before departing for AFRL.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Cole was the Program Manager for the Next Generation Laser System, Air Force Research Laboratory, Kirtland AFB, NM.