

Fitzhugh L. "Fitz" Fulton Jr. was born in Blakely, Georgia and holds a Bachelor's degree from Golden Gate University. He has extensive operational and test piloting experience with the United States Air Force. He made 225 trips to Berlin in C-54's during the Airlift and flew 55 combat missions in the Douglas B-26 over North Korea. After 15 years as a military test pilot Fulton retired from the Air Force as a Lt. Colonel in 1966. He was Chief of the Bomber Transport Test Operations Division at Edwards Air Force Base when he retired. He then joined the NASA Ames Dryden Flight Research Center and was the Chief Test Pilot until retiring again in July 1986. In October 1986 he became the Flight Operations Director and Chief Research Pilot for Scaled Composites at Mojave California. He retired once more in December 1988.

He has more than 18000 flight hours flown in over 235 different airplane types and has tested most of the military bombers and transports developed since 1950. Some of the significant flight testing in which he has participated includes early B-47, B-57 and B-52 tests, B-58 development, XB-70 research, NASA YF-12 Supersonic Research and initial 747 shuttle carrier airplane tests. He flew all 5 of the shuttle launches from on top of the Boeing 747 airplane. Earlier Fulton was the launch pilot dropping the X-1, X-2, X-15, M-2, HL-10 and the X-24 rocket airplanes from B-29, B-50 and B-52 airplanes. While with Scaled Composites he conducted flight tests on several airplanes and made first flights on the Advanced Technology Tactical Transport (ATT) on December 29, 1987 and the Model 143 twin engine executive jet on July 12, 1988.

Fulton is a recipient of the Harmon International Aviator's Trophy presented by President Johnson as the "World's Outstanding Aviator for 1962" as a result of test flying in the B-58 airplane. He is a Fellow in the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and in 1977 received the Ivan C. Kincheloe Trophy as the "Test Pilot of the Year." He is a graduate of the USAF Experimental Test Pilot School and was selected as their first "Distinguished Alumnus." While with the Air Force, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross four times for test and combat flight achievements and the Air Medal five times for airlift and combat flights. During his work with NASA he was presented two NASA Exceptional Service Medals.

Fulton continues to work occasionally as a flight test consultant. He and his wife Erma reside in Lancaster California and are the parents of three adult children; Virginia, James and Nancy.