

Biography of Ken Plotkin



Dr. Kenneth J. Plotkin, Chief Scientist at Wyle Laboratories, is a recognized expert on sonic boom. He received his BS in Aerospace Engineering from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn in 1965, and his PhD from Cornell University in 1971. His first involvement with sonic boom was as a graduate student at Cornell, where his thesis work was on the propagation of booms through turbulence. During his career at Wyle Laboratories, he extended his expertise to most aspects of sonic booms, including effects on people and structures. He has developed a number of aircraft and transportation noise models, including all of the sonic boom models used by the US DoD. He has served his time in the desert listening to and measuring booms. He was a key player in the recent DARPA/NASA Shaped Sonic Boom Demonstrator project that proved that sonic booms from aircraft can be reduced by proper shaping. In counterpoint, he was also part of the USAF "Have BEAR" project that taught fighter pilots how to generate focused superboms. Dr. Plotkin has prepared the noise and sonic boom analysis sections of numerous Environmental Impact Statements. He is a Senior Member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, a Member of the Society of Automotive Engineers, and a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America.