Robert L. Krieger was born August 17, 1916, in Louisville, Kentucky. He attended Newport News (Virginia) High School and received his B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology in 1943.

Krieger entered on duty in November 1936 at the Langley Research Center of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), which on October 1, 1958, became the nucleus of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He resigned in 1939 to attend Georgia Tech and returned to Langley February 16, 1943, after his graduation.

Since April 1948, Krieger has been in charge of the Pilotless Aircraft Research Station—now officially known as Wallops Station and comprising the facilities of Wallops Island and the former air station at Chincoteague, Virginia, which the NASA acquired from the Navy in July 1958.

Established in 1945, Wallops Island has been the launching site for more than 3,000 research rockets ranging in size from one to six stages to obtain scientific information for use in the development of airplanes, missiles, and spacecraft.

In addition to his duties as chief of Wallops Island, where he built up an organization involving research, mechanical service, maintenance, and administrative personnel, he also served from
1954 to 1959 as head of the research techniques and operations branch of the Pilotless Aircraft Research Division at the Langley Research Center. During that period, his headquarters office was at Langley.

Krieger is married to the former Frances McLarty of Hogansville, Georgia. With their six children, they now make their home at the former air station at Chincoteague.