



## Dr. Eric Hedlund

Dr. Eric Hedlund has served as the Chief Tester and Test and Evaluation Director, Aegis BMD since December, 1996. In this position he has been responsible for the Aegis BMD flight and ground test program, sea-based risk reduction experiments, and the planning and execution of developmental and operational tests. He was also the PMRF range upgrade manager from 1998-2004. Because of the PMRF upgrade program, the range is now unmatched in its capability to test ballistic missile defense systems. He has been the Mission Director on over 50 flight test events since the beginning of the program. Under his tenure, the Aegis BMD program has been successful in over 30 ballistic missile intercept attempts including Operation Burnt Frost in which an ailing NRO satellite was safely intercepted and destroyed. He also helped to develop the flexible family of ARAV ballistic missile targets which have been used for cost effective ballistic missile defense testing as well as Fleet live-fire training. The ARAV team won the 2010 Packard Acquisition Excellence Award for saving the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) hundreds of millions of dollars compared to other target acquisitions.

Prior to 1996, Dr. Hedlund was the Chief Aerodynamicist at the Arnold Engineering Development Center's (then Naval Surface Warfare Center White Oak) Hypervelocity Wind Tunnel complex where he led test campaigns for the Navy's Fleet Ballistic Missile (1978-1989), the National Aerospace Plane (1987-1991), and MDA (then Strategic Defense Initiative Organization) endoatmospheric interceptor technology programs (1978-1994). In 1992, he served one-year in the newly formed MDA/DT organization as the sponsor for test resources. The business and funding practices that he put into practice during this time are still used today in MDA/DT.

Dr. Hedlund holds a BS in Aerospace and Ocean Engineering from Virginia Tech, a MS in Aerospace Engineering from University of Maryland, and a PHD in Mechanical Engineering from Catholic University. He is a senior member in the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and has over 35 publications in journal and proceedings.