

DONALD C. MITCHELL



Mr. Mitchell is a graduate of Washington University (BSEE 1969) and the University of Southern California (MSEE 1973). His started his career at the Naval Ship Missile Systems Engineering Station (NSMSES). In his most notable assignment there, he led the NSMSES portion of the team assigned to the Developmental Testing of CG/SM2.

In 1979, Mr. Mitchell accepted a position at The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. At APL, his engineering assignments included the development of the modifications to the CG/SM2 and CG/NTU combat systems to enable them to function in TARTAR combatants and development of a concept for intership support of TERRIER and TARTAR SM-2 missile firings.

Mr. Mitchell moved to program management at APL in 1985. While a manager, he also served as the technical lead for significant projects including the development of modifications to New Threat Upgrade in preparation for Desert Storm and TERRIER LEAP. TERRIER LEAP pioneered use of radars ashore to provide fire control quality tracking data to ships afloat. He eventually became Programs Manager for the Air Defense Systems Department.

In 1999, Mr. Mitchell accepted an Intergovernmental Personnel Assignment as the Technical Director for PEO/Theater Surface Combatants and PEO/Integrated Warfare Systems. In that role, he revived system engineering within the technical community and worked on point with other Navy and DoD offices in the successful completion of high visibility projects such as CEC DT/OT, ALI, ESSM DT/OT and the NIMITZ Battle Group Accelerated Deployment.

Mr. Mitchell returned to APL in 2003 as the Chief Engineer for Ballistic Missile Defense. From that position, PD 452 tapped him to lead a multi-organizational team that produced the Balanced Investment Strategy. That study produced the technical rationale underpinning ABMD Baseline 4.0 and SM3 Block IB. In 2005, the Missile Defense Agency asked Mr. Mitchell to become the Technical Director for the Mission Readiness Task Force that produced and implemented a plan that returned Ground Based Midcourse Defense to successful flight testing. At the completion of the MRTF assignment in 2006, MDA appointed Mr. Mitchell as its Director for Readiness Assessment. He served in that role until his retirement.