

2017 Pathfinder Award Winner



Mr. Robert Wilson has served as the STANDARD MISSILE-3 (SM-3) Technical Director/Advisor for the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) Program since July 1997. In this position, he has assisted in addressing all technical and programmatic items assigned to the SM-3 Program within the Aegis BMD Program Office, serving on most Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and program level Failure Review Boards as a subject matter expert. During this timeframe, he has supported over 29 SM-3 firing events supporting risk and engineering issue resolution. During the 2013 timeframe, he served as the Aegis BMD Technical

Lead for the Third Stage Rocket Motor (TSRM) Attitude Control System (ACS) Cold Gas Regulator (CGR) redesign effort, which had stopped all SM-3 production. Mr. Wilson was also involved with the modifications to the SM-3 missile design to allow the SM-3 missile to intercept and destroy an ailing National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) satellite that was in an uncontrolled state and returning to Earth. He has been responsible for evaluating and generating solutions with Raytheon, as the SM-3 prime contractor, to all technical issues during the development and manufacturing of the SM-3 Block I, IA, IB, and IIA missiles. He has assisted in developing programmatic plans for all variants of the SM-3 missile and missile components such as the TSRM, Solid Divert and Attitude Control System (SDACS), and Throttleable Divert and Attitude Control System (TDACS) within the Aegis BMD Program.

Prior to 1997, Mr. Wilson served in the United States Navy from January 1969 until his retirement in July 1997. After completing several at sea assignments associated with the TARTAR, TERRIER, and TALOS Naval missile systems shipboard and ashore, he served several tours as Test and Evaluation Officer, Systems Engineer, Technical Director and as Program Manager in various Navy Weapon and Missile system programs before assuming the responsibility as the Standard Missile and Vertical Launching System Program Manager in July 1993. During that 1993 to 1997 timeframe, Captain Wilson originated the effort for the Acquisition Demonstration precursor phase to the development of the SM-3 missile and conducted all of the preliminary program plans and design reviews for the baseline SM-3 missile. This included setting all of the initial design requirements for the SM-3 Block I/IA missiles.

Mr. Wilson holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of South Carolina and a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the U.S. Navy Postgraduate School. He has also completed the Department of Defense (DoD) Program Manager School and is a graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Mr. Wilson is one of the original founders of the Basic Engineering Concepts and Technologies (BecTech) company and serves as the Executive Vice-President and Chief Technical Officer.