
Karen S. Burrows



Director, Integrated Warfare Systems Engineering (SEA 05H), Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA)

Ms. Karen S. Burrows serves as the Director, Integrated Warfare Systems Engineering, Naval Sea Systems Command (SEA 05H) and is the Technical Authority to Program Executive Office, Integrated Warfare Systems. Ms. Burrows is responsible for oversight of Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Combat Systems, and Intelligence systems (C5I) research, development, delivery, certification for deployment, and life cycle support for U.S. Navy ships. In this capacity, she is the Deputy Warranted Technical and Certification Authority for Navy Integrated Warfare Capability. Ms. Burrows provides leadership in command-wide efforts to identify and manage engineering workforce-related challenges, including strategic planning for advanced concepts, integrated warfare systems engineering, human systems integration, integration and interoperability, warfare systems certification and readiness, and interior communications.

Ms. Burrows was previously assigned as the Executive Director of the Naval Ordnance Safety and Security Activity and the Deputy for Weapons Safety. Ms. Burrows was also the chair for the Department of the Navy's Weapon System Explosives Safety Review Board, providing system safety compliance of all Navy and Marine Corps munitions, ordnance items, weapons and combat systems prior to fielding to operating forces.

Ms. Burrows was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in April 2012 and has over 30 years of Service in the Department of Defense. From 2010 to 2012 Ms. Burrows concurrently held two positions at the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) as the Deputy Administrator and Chief Information Officer responsible for the operational provision of scientific and technical information.

Prior to her assignment at DTIC, from 2008 to 2010 she served as the Director of the Emerging Capabilities Division of the Rapid Reaction Technology Office in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering – DDR&E) where she was responsible for developing, maturing and transitioning technologies supporting border security, surveillance and maritime domain awareness missions through partnerships with the Services and other Federal departments.

In 2006 Ms. Burrows was assigned as the Special Assistant to the Office of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, Department of Defense. While in DDR&E, she led the inaugural prize, Wearable Power, a public competition to award cash prizes to both traditional and non-traditional innovators to develop lightweight, long-endurance wearable power systems.

Ms. Burrows began her career at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head Division where she held several key technical and managerial positions to include: Project Engineer, Mine Countermeasures; Program

Manager for Insensitive Munitions; Program Manager for Thermobaric Programs in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; and Director, Technology Division. Her experience spans the areas of energetic materials, insensitive munitions and weapons research, development, test and evaluation.

Ms. Burrows is the recipient of two Department of Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Awards, Navy Meritorious Unit award and is certified as a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt. She has authored numerous technical publications and is a member of the Acquisition Professional Community. Her professional affiliations include memberships with the International System Safety Society and the National Society of Black Engineers. Ms. Burrows holds a Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University.