
James S. Ketchum



Director, Plans and Programs Division Strategic Systems Program

Mr. Ketchum is currently the Director, Plans and Program Division of the Strategic Systems Programs. He is responsible for the development and execution of all plans and budgets for the Navy Strategic Weapons System and serves as a member of the Strategic Systems Programs Board of Directors. Mr. Ketchum has been a member of the Senior Executive Service since January 2008, and has a total of 30 years of Federal service.

Prior to his current assignment, Mr. Ketchum served as the Comptroller of Strategic Systems Programs (SSP) and also served as Head of the Resources Branch. He was responsible for all financial management (budget and accounting) for the Navy's Strategic Weapons System and was the chief financial advisor to the SSP Board of Directors. Prior to his Comptroller assignment, Mr. Ketchum served as the Budget Officer and Program Control Officer for the joint National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration /National Aeronautics and Space Administration Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite – R series weather prediction satellite program. He was responsible for all GOES-R program financial matters which included budget and execution, program planning, scheduling and earned value management support. As Program Control Officer he provided overall leadership, guidance and direction for program life-cycle estimates, program cost and earned value evaluations, scheduling and planning necessary to design, develop and deliver the GOES-R system.

Mr. Ketchum has previously held numerous positions in the Strategic Systems Programs' Resources Branch. As the Budget Section Head, he served as the primary financial and policy manager for all appropriations used to deliver the Strategic Weapons System. As budget officer he supervised, managed and coordinated all budgetary requirements for the development, acquisition and operation of the TRIDENT II (D5) weapon system. Prior to being Budget Officer, Mr. Ketchum served as Head of the Development, Operations and Support unit responsible for the O&MN, RDT&EN, OPN/WPN Spares and Repair Parts and Information Technologies programs. Mr. Ketchum's initial SSP assignment in 1980 was Navy Industrial Fund (NIF) Accountant responsible for the financial management and reporting of operations at the Navy's Strategic Weapons Facilities, the POLARIS Missile Facility, Atlantic (POMFLANT) in Charleston, SC and the Strategic Weapons Facility, Pacific (SWFPAC) in Bangor, Washington.

Mr. Ketchum holds a 1978 bachelor's of science degree from the University of Maryland-University College in business and management (with a major in accounting). He is a member of the Acquisition Professional Community with Level III certification in Program Management (PM) and in Budget, Cost, and Finance (BCF). Mr. Ketchum was awarded the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award in September 2006, recognizing his contribution towards maintaining the financial management disciplines that have allowed SSP to manage and execute several generations of weapons systems on schedule and within budget.