James A. Hansen

Superintendent, Marine Meteorology Division
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Dr. Hansen is the Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), Marine Meteorology Division (MMD) in Monterey, CA. He directs a broadly based, multi-disciplinary program of scientific research, advanced technology development and applied research in marine meteorology and related atmospheric sciences to develop new numerical analysis and prediction systems to support Navy and DoD operations and to provide new understanding of the environmental impacts on Naval platforms, sensors, and systems. He leads a team of 120 scientists, engineers and technical and support personnel and executes a $35M annual budget.

Dr. Hansen was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in March 2016 and has over 10 years of civilian Federal service.

Prior to joining NRL, Dr. Hansen served as an Associate Professor and an Assistant Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT); a Post-doctoral Fellow at MIT; research scientist at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, UK; and Post-Doctoral Research Assistant at the Oxford Centre for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, University of Oxford, UK. He was concurrently a Visiting Scientist/Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Dr. Hansen jointed NRL as a research Physical Scientist in 2006 where he initially specialized in environmental uncertainty estimation and communication. He expanded to conduct cross-cutting research with the Navy and DoD Intelligence, Operations Research, and Operational Risk Management communities to merge seemingly disparate types of information to create more meaningful tactical and operational pictures. Dr. Hansen was selected as the founding Lead Scientist of the NRL Probabilistic-Prediction Research Office in 2008, promoted to Head of the Meteorological Applications Development Branch in 2012, and to Acting MMD Superintendent in 2015.

Dr. Hansen earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Atmospheric, Oceanic and Planetary Physics from the University of Oxford through the Rhodes Scholarship Program in 1998; along with BS and MS degrees in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 1992 and 1993.

His awards include a Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award, an ONR Young Investigator Award, and a NRL Technology Transfer Award. He has been awarded two Patents for his Navy related research and has published over 38 peer-reviewed journal articles.