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**Brian H. Houston, Ph.D.**



**Superintendent, Acoustics Division  
Director, Laboratory for Structural Acoustics**

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Brian H. Houston, Ph.D. is Acoustics Division Superintendent at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) in Washington, D.C. The division's scientists and engineers perform collaborative research with scientists affiliated with national and international academic, private, and governmental research organizations. Its research strategy supports the Secretary of Defense's "*National Defense Strategy of 2018*" and spans classical through quantum physics with a focus in five strategic research areas: ocean and atmospheric acoustics, physical and structural acoustics, undersea signal processing, autonomous and distributed systems, and advanced materials for undersea warfare. Moreover, the division continuously invests in synchronization activities with key partners that include the Office of Naval Research, the operational naval forces, and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Dr. Houston's research areas include applications of acoustic signature physics particularly in connection with anti-submarine warfare and mine counter-measures, as well as autonomy for unmanned underwater vehicles. His scientific work also includes structural acoustics of underwater systems, physical acoustics of micro- and nano-mechanical systems, optics and atomic physics.

Houston received his Ph.D. in physics from the American University, Washington, D.C. in 1989. From 1989-1991 he directed the creation of the new Laboratory for Structural Acoustics at NRL and became the director of this world-class laboratory at its completion. His series of successively larger roles includes selection as head of the NRL Physical Acoustics Branch in the Acoustics Division in 2007, and then advancing to division superintendent in 2020.

Houston has published extensively. He is a Fellow of the Acoustic Society of America and a member of the IEEE. He has more than 100 journal publications and several patents. He received the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) Undersea Warfare Division Bronze Medal in 2000, the Navy Meritorious Service Award in 2008, the Delores Etter Navy Top Scientist Award in 2010, and the Arthur E. Bisson Prize for Naval Technology Achievement Award in 2013. Houston spent most of his childhood growing up in Asia and has worked for more than a decade as an adult volunteer leader for the Boy Scouts of America.