
Kelly McCool



Director, Mission Engineering and Analysis Department Naval Air Systems Command



Ms. McCool is currently the Director of the Mission Engineering and Analysis Department at the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR). Her responsibilities include leading a department of system of systems and mission engineers, warfare analysts, and security specialists in performing capability based analysis for a diverse Department of Defense customer base. The common objective of these efforts is to inform investment decisions by characterizing future capability gaps, defining trade space and providing mission level context to potential solutions. In addition, mission engineers translate capability based needs into individual program derived requirements to ensure interoperability and tactical relevance.

Ms. McCool was appointed to the Senior Executive Service on 16 September 2018 and has 28 years of civilian service. She earned a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering and a master's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Maryland. She is also a graduate of both the NAVAIR Senior Executive Management Development Program and the Federal Executive Institute's program for Leadership in a Democratic Society.

Her career experience includes significant roles on several major aircraft development programs. She served as the Chief Engineer for the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter Program Office where she was responsible for all technical aspects of the development, production and sustainment of the F-35, the next generation strike aircraft for the U.S. Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy. She was also the Technical Director for the Presidential Helicopter Program where she was responsible for all technical aspects of both sustaining the currently fielded Presidential Transport Helicopters as well as formulating the technical development plan for the replacement program.

Ms. McCool has served as the Mission Area Lead Integrator for Surface and Strike Warfare (MALISS) for the Program Executive Officer for Unmanned Aviation and Strike Weapons (PEO (U&W)) and the Principal Deputy Program Manager for the Mission Integration and Special Programs Office (PMA-298) at NAVAIR. In these roles she advised PEOs and OPNAV on tactical and strategic investments to close capability gaps in Surface, Strike and Air Warfare mission areas. She has also served as the Principal Advisor to the Naval Aviation Headquarters Chief Engineer, the Deputy Assistant Commander for NAVAIR's Research and Engineering Group and to the Deputy Director for the Air Platform System Engineering Division.

Her awards include a Secretary of Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Award and a Department of the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award. She is a member of the Acquisition Professional Community and is Level III certified in the Systems Planning, Research, Development and Engineering (SPRDE) career field.