



Biography

NELSON (NED) KEELER

Director, Software Engineering Center
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD

Serving as the Director of the US Army Communications-Electronics Command's Software Engineering Center (SEC), Mr. Ned Keeler leads the Command's efforts to provide state-of-the-art software engineering products and services throughout the Army and the Department of Defense, including system level software engineering for over 275 individual battlespace systems (Warfighter and business systems); system-of-systems level software integration; software architecture design and implementation; software technology/process assessment and application; and world-wide technical support to deployed systems. He leads a global organization of over 3300 military, civilian, and industry employees and manages an annual budget in excess of \$970 million.



Mr. Keeler earned a bachelor's degree in Engineering from the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Academy and was commissioned as an officer in 1963. He received his aviator's wings in 1965 and amassed over 6,000 pilot hours during his military career, principally flying both search and rescue and law enforcement missions. In 1970, he received his master's degree in Electrical Engineering from the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology and complemented his flying assignments with those in avionics engineering, radio-navigation, and research and development.

Mr. Keeler's first assignment in the Senior Executive Service was in 2001 as the Director of the National Aeronautic & Space Administration's (NASA) software Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) Facility; in 2006 he relocated to be the Director of Aviation Programs at the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center, where he led a directorate of 160 federal personnel and 300 contractors providing approximately \$140M of annual systems engineering support to the Federal Aviation Administration, NASA, Environmental Protection Agency, and the United States Postal Service; and, in 2008 he took his current assignment as the Director of the SEC. Prior to his entry into civil service, Mr. Keeler completed a 32 year career in the USCG that was concluded with him serving as the Commanding Officer (O-6) of the USCG Research and Development (R&D) Center. Since then, he has served in multiple leadership positions in both government and private industry.

Mr. Keeler has received numerous awards and recognition for his achievements including the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal for his period serving as the Director of the NASA IV&V Facility; the Meritorious Service Medal for his work as the Commanding Officer of the USCG R&D Center; and the Air Medal for rescue of three fishermen in extremely hazardous night-time conditions. He has been recognized both nationally and internationally for heading U.S. delegations negotiating bilateral treaties with the USSR, Japan, Argentina, Norway, Germany, including US/USSR LORAN CHYKA Agreement signed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and former President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev at the 1988 May-June Summit.