
Brian J. Persons



Vice Director, Navy Staff

Mr. Persons is currently the Vice Director, Navy Staff. In this capacity, Mr. Persons is the Senior Civilian of the U.S. Navy and is the principal advisor to the Director, Navy Staff, the Vice Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of Naval Operations on the day to day business operations of the U.S. Navy.

Prior to his current assignment, Mr. Persons was the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfare Systems (N9) and the Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfare Systems (N9B). In this capacity, Mr. Persons, was the Chief of Naval Operations principal advisor for determination of warfare requirements and the integration of naval warfare systems. Mr. Persons also provides professional and technical advice on program and budget matters pertaining to naval warfare programs and exercises centralized coordination in the preparation, preview, presentation, and subsequent issuance of decisions on Navy programs and plans. He is directly responsible for a portfolio of Navy programs with an annual funding level of approximately \$90 billion per year. He also serves as the Chief of Naval Operations' principal advisor for the management of the civilian Senior Executive cadre.

Mr. Persons began his professional career as a GS-7 Naval Architect in the Design Division at Long Beach Naval Shipyard after graduating from Michigan State University in June 1981 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering. There he worked on numerous surface ship overhauls including the reactivation of the battleships USS NEW JERSEY (BB 62) and USS MISSOURI (BB 63), restoration repairs to the missile damaged USS STARK (FFG 31) and was a member of the voyage repair team sent to the Persian Gulf assess and repair the mine-damaged USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (FFG 58).

He was selected in 1989 to the NAVSEA Commander's Development Program and performed various developmental rotational assignments and training opportunities that culminated in him being selected as the Director of Maintenance and Modernization position for the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition.

In 1996, Mr. Persons returned to NAVSEA as the Assistant Program Manager for CVN 77 and was subsequently selected to be the first Deputy Program Manager for the Future Aircraft Carrier Program Office (PMS 378). In February 2000, Mr. Persons was appointed to the Senior

Executive Service and was selected as the Executive Director for the Program Executive Office, Aircraft Carriers where he was the Senior Civilian Official responsible and accountable for a program portfolio of \$40B and all aspects of future aircraft carrier platform development and the material combat readiness of the in-service aircraft carrier fleet for the U.S. Navy.

In 2006, Mr. Persons was selected as the Executive Director for Naval Systems Engineering Directorate at NAVSEA where he was the Senior Civilian Chief Engineer and Chief Technology Officer. In this capacity, he was responsible for implementing technical authority for all research, development, technology transition, design, engineering and certification efforts for surface ships, submarines and aircraft carriers and their sub-systems of the United States Navy. He was also the leader of the Research and Systems Engineering Competency at NAVSEA where he was responsible for developing and maintaining standards, processes, policies, workload forecasting and career management guidance for a national workforce of over 20,000 scientists and engineers.

Then in March 2009, Mr. Persons was selected as the Executive Director of NAVSEA and where he is the senior civilian of the Navy's largest Systems Command with direct responsibility for a professional and industrial workforce of over 58,000 and an annual operating budget of \$30B. He was also the Command's Senior Acquisition Official and Milestone Decision Authority for programs assigned to NAVSEA. Mr. Persons was also responsible for operations and contracting for the five Department of the Navy sponsored University Affiliated Research Centers (UARCs).

Mr. Persons has a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from Michigan State University and a Master of Science degree in Technology Management from the University of Maryland. He was a fellow with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Seminar XXI Program that studied Foreign Politics, International Relations and the National Interest. Mr. Persons is DAWIA Level III certified in Program Management and was awarded a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt from Virginia Polytechnic University. Mr. Persons has received numerous awards over his career that include two Navy Superior Civilian Service Medals, the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Medal, and the Senior Executive Service Meritorious Presidential Rank Awards in 2004 and 2011 and the Senior Executive Distinguished Presidential Rank Award in 2008. In June 2009, Mr. Persons' career was praised in a speech on the U.S. Senate floor by Senator Edward "Ted" Kauffman as one of the top leaders in the Federal Government. In October 2013, Mr. Persons received the prestigious Roger W. Jones Award for Executive Leadership from American University's School of Public Affairs in recognition of his career of extraordinary effectiveness in senior leadership positions in the Federal Government.