
Donald Stuart Young



**Director,
Systems Engineering
Naval Air Systems Command**



In May 2009, Mr. D. Stuart (Stu) Young returned as the Director of Systems Engineering, Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR). In this role, he leads a national department with a combined workforce of over 2,000 military, civilian and contractor personnel across 7 major sites. He also continues to chair major design reviews, provide non-advocate review of critical acquisition programs, and assures the integrity of systems engineering processes for NAVAIR and the Navy.

Mr. Young began his career in 1978 as a small business owner in the Washington, D.C. area. He earned a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Maryland in 1986 and after completion of Aviation Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Fla. received his Navy commission. He served four years in the training command while assigned to VT-26 and VT-25 at NAS Chase Field in Beeville, Texas, and accumulated over 1000 flight hours piloting the A-4, TA-4J, T-2C and other training aircraft.

Mr. Young left active duty in 1989 and joined NAVAIR in Arlington, Va. After serving in the flight clearance office he was assigned to the Crew Systems Department as a project engineer on the Navy Aircrew Common Ejection Seat (NACES) and associated efforts. In 1993 he moved to the F-14 Program Office as the Deputy Program Manager, Structural and Avionics Block Upgrade program. He also served at the Medium Range Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (MRUAV) class desk. In 1995 he was detailed to the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, reporting to the Director of the Systems Engineering office for National Missile Defense.

Mr. Young returned to NAVAIR in 1996 as the Head of the In-Flight Escape Systems Branch. In this role he helped ensure the success of programs such as the accommodation improvements to the NACES, modifications to the T-2C and AV-8B escape systems, certification of the T-6 escape system, and the determination of requirements for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. The NACES escape system has saved more than seventy lives.

In 1998 he was selected as the Deputy Head of the Crew Systems Department, and soon thereafter was designated as the Director. He served as the Director of Crew Systems until 2001, at which time he was selected for the Senior Executive Service and became the Director of the Systems Engineering Department. In this capacity he assisted in the recovery of the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program, established the Systems Engineering Technical Review (SETR) Process, and chaired over forty major design reviews.

In 2003 Mr. Young transferred to NAVAIR Orlando Training Systems Division as the Technical Director, as well as Director of the NAVAIR Human Systems Engineering Department. In addition to his other duties, he was designated the Executive Director for NAVAIR AIR*Speed* Lean-Six Sigma in February of 2006.

In 2006 Mr. Young was assigned to the Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland, as the Director of the Integrated Battlespace Simulation and Test Department (IBST), Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR). In this role he was responsible for platform level ground testing, modeling and simulation in the battlespace environment, and the command's RDT&E network environment. In addition to his role as Director of IBST, he was also the RDT&E Executive responsible for establishing and defining activities/operations required to sustain the NAVAIR RDT&E network environment.

Mr. Young completed a master's degree in business administration (MBA) from Marymount University in 1994. He is a graduate of the Defense Systems Management College (1995), the Senior Executive Management Development Program (1996), and the Federal Executive Institute (2001). He has received numerous special recognition awards, including NAVAIR Commander Awards in 1997 and 2007, Area Commander Awards in 2001 and 2003, and the Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 2006. He has 21 years of civil service, 4 years of active duty military service, and 8 years as a military reservist.