



# HII DefenseTech

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## James Juster

Deputy Director, Department of the Navy Rapid Capabilities Office



Mr. James Juster is a Navy civilian with three decades of leadership in rapid naval capability development and operations, advanced combat systems, and defense innovation. He currently serves as Deputy Director of the Department of the Navy Rapid Capabilities Office (DONRCO), leading initiatives focused on accelerating the delivery of mission-critical technologies and operational capabilities to the fleet. Throughout his career, Mr. Juster has combined operational expertise with technical innovation to solve complex national security challenges and rapidly transition those solutions into operational use.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Juster served in several roles at Program Executive Office Integrated Warfare Systems (PEO IWS), including Chief Technology Officer and Rapid Capability Office Director. In his role as Chief Technology Officer, he oversaw science and technology initiatives, advanced concept development, and experimentation. As Rapid Capability Office Director, Mr. Juster placed an emphasis on rapid experimentation and automation to modernize combat systems and accelerate operational readiness.

Mr. Juster has also held multiple technical and acquisition leadership positions supporting Aegis and integrated combat systems development. His work included oversight of combat systems and test beds, real-time simulation, virtual twin environments, and advanced systems engineering efforts designed to improve fleet capability and integration. Earlier in his civilian service career, he was an Operations Research Analyst at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, where he focused on experimentation and digital modeling.

Before entering senior acquisition leadership, Mr. Juster served as a Surface Warfare Officer in the United States Navy. His operational assignments included Commanding Officer and Executive Officer in USS O'KANE (DDG 77), in addition to engineering and leadership roles aboard USS BULKELEY (DDG 84), USS ESSEX (LHD 2), and USS LEWIS B. PULLER (FFG 23). Mr. Juster also worked as part of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) staff and in the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense Program Office contributing to capability development at both operational and strategic levels.

Mr. Juster holds a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing from the University of Notre Dame.