

Richard Watanabe



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Biography

Mr. Richard Watanabe serves as the Division Systems Engineer in the Land Attack Department at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme Division. With over 17 years of experience in the Navy Surface Combat Systems Engineering community, he is the lead systems engineer to provide technical oversight for implementing Distance Support technologies to significantly increase fleet readiness and reduce Total Ownership Costs for the Navy.

Previously, Mr. Watanabe served as the operational manager of over 30 engineers and scientists in the Combat Systems Engineering Branch to provide systems engineering, acquisition logistics, and maintenance support for the Littoral Combat Ship, DDG-1000, and USCG National Security Cutter programs. Mr. Watanabe also served as the Combat Systems In-Service Engineering Liaison at Commander Naval Surface Forces (CNSF) where he led numerous initiatives to reduce overall sustainment costs for the Navy's Surface Fleet

resulting in a combined savings of over \$50M. Prior to his assignment at CNSF, Mr. Watanabe was the project lead to establish a 60-person team on the waterfront in San Diego, CA and Norfolk, VA to support the Combat Systems upgrade efforts for the multi-billion dollar Aegis Modernization Program.

As a U.S. Air Force veteran of the 1991 Gulf War in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Provide Comfort, Mr. Watanabe supported combat operations as a Crew Chief for the HC-130P/N Combat Search and Rescue Aircraft. Mr. Watanabe was awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal, Outstanding Unit and Southwest Asia Campaign Commendation awards.

Mr. Watanabe holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, CA and a B.S. in Professional Aeronautics from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. He also earned a M.S. in Systems Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School.