



The Washington DC Chapter of the International System Safety Society



Chapter Newsletter Jan-June 2017

WDC Chapter Website: Stay up to date on the latest news and happenings! Log in to the Washington DC Chapter's Website online at: <http://washingtonchapter.net/>

Online Calendar: Download events to your calendar, share events, send reminders, get maps, weather and locations... [Click Here](#)

President's Corner:



Greetings to all of our Chapter Members and their families! My 2-year term as President has just flown by. I am honored and privileged to have served such a dedicated and professional membership. I have decided to stay on as the Webmaster for the WDC website and have put my hat in the ring for Scholarship and Education (S&E) Officer. I will be following in our current S&E Officer Mr. Edward W. Kratovil's amazing footsteps as he embraces retirement after a long and distinguished career from serving as a Safety Officer aboard Navy ships to chairing the WSESRB to managing a team of Safety Professionals at SAIC.

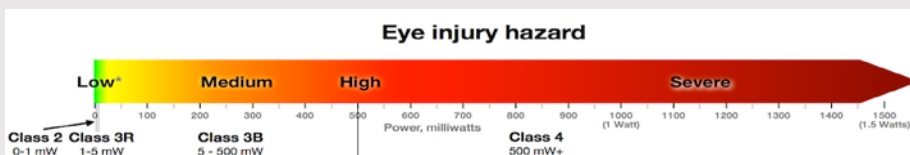
Voting is in progress for new officers of the Washington DC Chapter who will begin their terms on July 1, 2017. All voting this year is done online through the WDC Chapter website. Voting is fast, easy and ensures a record of all votes.

Serving as a WDC Chapter Officer is an extremely important function and requires our members to step up and take charge of the operations for the membership. Without these key individuals the chapter cannot exist! Best wishes and many thanks to all of the WDC Members who have come forward as candidates. Be sure to check out the Bios for key candidates below.

~~~~~ Be Happy & Stay Safe!...Donne DiFiglia, WDC President ~~~~~

### Notable Meetings & Events:

- **WDC All Member Chapter Meeting:** Tuesday, 6 June 2017
  - **Who:** For all WDC and Guest Chapter Members and their guests
  - **Where:** AECOM ,1671 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 107, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
  - **Guest Speaker:** Mr. Emil Paul Denk with members of the Naval Laser Safety Review Board
  - **Topic:** "Roundtable Discussion on Navy Laser Safety Program"
  - **Highlights:** Mr. Denk explained how controls required by Laser Safety Programs are determined by the hazard classification of a laser or laser system and how and where the laser system will be used. Mr. Denk presented a set of PowerPoint slides that highlighted each of the main classes of lasers and there was a discussion on Class 3C. The presentation also highlighted some of the math and physics associated with determination of laser safety.

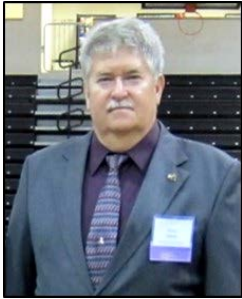




## **WDC Chapter Presidential Candidate**

**EMIL PAUL DENK**

[paul.denk@aecom.com](mailto:paul.denk@aecom.com)



Mr. Emil “Paul” Denk is a Senior Safety Analyst for the Systems Engineering & Information Solutions Strategic Business Unit of AECOM’s Management Services Group. He has been a member of the International System Safety Society since 2012 and was the Treasurer of the Washington DC chapter from 2014-2016. Paul was born in Charleston, South Carolina in 1964. He is a 1990 graduate of City University of Seattle with an Associate of Science degree. He received his Bachelor’s degree in Computer Information Systems from Strayer University in 2008.

Paul was born in Charleston, South Carolina in 1964. He is a 1990 graduate of City University of Seattle with an Associate of Science degree. He received his Bachelor’s degree in Computer Information Systems from Strayer University in 2008. He is recognized by the Naval Ordnance Safety and Security Activity as a Principal for Safety for U.S. Navy Weapon Systems. He Enlisted in the United States Navy in July of 1982 and received basic and advanced training as an Electronic Warfare Technician. His twenty year career included serving on a Guided Missile Fast Frigate, two Guided Missile Destroyers, two Guided Missile Cruisers and the Aircraft Carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75). His shore duty assignments included duty as a U.S. Navy Recruiter in Panama City, FL and as the Fleet Liaison for Electronic Warfare and Decoy systems at the Naval Sea Systems Command in Washington DC.

Upon retiring from the USN, Paul worked at General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems (GDAIS) in Fairfax, VA as the Safety Engineer and Requirements Manager for the Surface Electronic Warfare Improvement Program (SEWIP) Block One, which provided much needed upgrades to surface electronic warfare systems. Following GDAIS, he moved to central Virginia in order to support the safety branch of the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division in their Electronic Warfare and Decoy projects. He currently supports safety engineering efforts for the United States Marine Corps System Commands Infantry Weapons and Optics organization. Paul resides with his family in Mineral, Virginia.

**President, WDC Chapter [Elected Position - 2 Year Term]:** The President of the Chapter ensures the routine and daily business of the Chapter is executed and completed as required. The President will conduct annual elections, sign all formal Chapter correspondence, review and forward the Chapter annual reports, and other business as required or decided by the President or the Executive Committee. Ultimately, the President is responsible to the Chapter for the adequate management of all Chapter operations, properties, and monies.



## **WDC Chapter Vice-Presidential Candidate**

**JOHN BURCHETT**

[burchettjw@yahoo.com](mailto:burchettjw@yahoo.com)



Mr. Burchett is currently the NAVSEASYSKOM Technical Warrant Holder for Cartridge Actuated Devices and Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD) and previously served as the Principal for Safety for CAD/PAD in the Systems Engineering Department at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Division in Indian Head, Maryland. During his 34 plus years of service he has worked on energetic systems in a variety of aircraft and weapons systems across all US services, delivered several papers at national and international venues, and taught the NSWCIEODTD Basic Ordnance Technology course.

Work experience began as a production engineer manufacturing propellants and moved to an ordnance devices test engineer and project manager for qualification of weapons system components. He served as the NAVAIRSYSKOM Assistant Deputy Program Manager for Systems and Engineering for CAD/PAD, the lead in updating the CAD/PAD Quality Management processes, and was a key contributor on the creation of the CAD/PAD Virtual Fleet Support project.

Mr. Burchett holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPI) and a MSc in Explosive Ordnance Engineering from Cranfield University. Off work activity has included teaching a summer rockets course for kids, teaching engineering at Germanna Community College, and involvement in professional society initiatives as a member of the American Institutes of Aeronautics and Astronautics, AIAA Energetic Components and Systems Technical Committee, and the International System Safety Society.

**Vice-President, WDC Chapter [Elected Position - 2 Year Term]:** The Vice-President supports the Chapter President in his duties and responsibilities,. The Vice-President serves as the Chapter President if one has not been elected and assumes the president's duties and responsibilities whenever he or she is absent or unable to serve.



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**WDC Chapter Treasurer Candidate**

**MICHAEL RAMSBURG**

ramsburg2@verizon.net



Mr. Ramsburg has more than 45 years of professional engineering experience, which includes over 42 years of specialized system safety engineering experience. He has conducted safety analyses and evaluations on various U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, and Office of Naval Research (ONR) weapon systems, such as the Nulka Decoy System and DDG 1000. He has performed as Head of the Risk Assessment Branch, Head of the System Safety Engineering Branch, and Head of the Combat System Safety and Engineering Division at the Naval Surface Warfare Center/Dahlgren Division (NSWCDD) and holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering.

After retiring from the Civil Service with 38 years of service, Mr. Ramsburg supported Navy and Marine Corps system safety engineering programs for an additional seven years while employed with BAE Systems and URS.

**Education:**

B.S.; 1972; West Virginia University Institute of Technology; Chemical Engineering

**Certifications:**

Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) Certified, Level III in Systems Planning, Research, Development and Engineering (SPRDE), 2000 (Recertified 2002 and 2004)

Member, Acquisition Professional Community (APC) since 2000

Member, International System Safety Society

**Publications:**

NSWCDD MP-95/171, Naval Surface Warfare Center Insensitive Munitions Review Board (IMRB) Findings; NSWC TR 82-297, A-6E Target Recognition Attack Multisensor (TRAM) Use Against At-Sea Towed Targets; NSWC TR 82-57, Analysis Techniques for Airborne Laser Range Safety Evaluations; "Putting Lasers in Perspective", Canadian Department of Defense General Safety Digest, May-June 1982 (reprinted from MECH Magazine)

**Honors and Awards:**

NSWC Dahlgren Leadership Award for Employee Development, 2004

Various Individual and Group Achievement Awards

**Treasurer, WDC Chapter [Elected Position - 1 Year Term]:** The Treasurer maintains the WDC bank accounts, financial records, and checkbook. The Treasurer, along with the President, has signing authority for financial transactions with the Chapters financial institution, and writes checks, conducts financial transactions as needed, and ensures all financial accounts are balanced. Checks are typically written to reimburse EC members for expenditures in support of official Chapter business, and to reimburse Chapter monthly meeting hosts for any snacks and soda's purchased for the meeting. The Treasurer also prepares the financial input to the annual report to the Society.