



**The Washington DC Chapter  
of the  
International System  
Safety Society**



**Chapter Newsletter  
July-Dec 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 am proud to announce that our Washington DC Chapter has received the Chapter of the Year Award! Congratulations to each and every one of our amazing members who have made this possible! See the announcement on Page 2.

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! Voting has ended for new officers of the Washington DC Chapter who will begin their terms on July 1, 2017. I would like to extend congratulations and a warm welcome to our newly elected President, Mr. Emil Paul Denk, our new Vice-President, Mr. John Burchett, our new Executive Secretary, Ms. Amber D. Shampine, and our new Treasurer, Mr. Michael Ramsburg. Congratulations to Dr. Janet Gill who was appointed by President Denk as the Special Projects Officer. See Officers' biographies starting on Page 3 below and on the WDC website at <http://washingtonchapter.net>.

I have decided to stay on as the Webmaster for the WDC website and was appointed by President Denk as the new Scholarship and Education Officer (S&EO). I will be following in our current S&EO, 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.

On 20 Sept 2017, Mr. Owen Seely bridged the System Safety and HRA gap with his awesome presentation. On Oct 17 2017, we were delighted to have a distinguished member of our WDC Chapter, Mr. Dev Raheja as our guest speaker. His presentation on "Protecting Your and Your Family from 440,000 Fatal Hospital Mistakes a Year" sparked a lively discussion among the participants. See more about these great presentations on Pages 9 and 10.

Congratulations to our WDC Scholarship winner, Mr. Christopher Simmons! See more on Page 11.

As Always - Stay Safe!...Donne DiFiglia



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**Awards:**

**ISSC CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

The Washington DC Chapter (WDC) has won the award for International System Safety Society (ISSS) Chapter of the Year for the fiscal year 2016-2017. What an honor!

The Officers and Executive Committee of the WDC Chapter would like to express our gratitude to all of the System Safety professionals that live and breathe to ensure the safety of the men and women of our country and especially our military. The members of our WDC Chapter are a highly devoted team of experts, the cream of the crop and the best in the business.



WDC Chapter Executive Secretary, Amber D. Shampine and WDC Chapter President, E. Paul Denk, accepting the award for ISSS Chapter of the Year



## **New WDC Chapter President**

**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.



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**New WDC Vice-President**

**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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**New WDC Chapter Treasurer**

**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.



### **New WDC Chapter Executive Secretary**

**AMBER D. SHAMPINE**

[amber.d.Shampine@saic.com](mailto:amber.d.Shampine@saic.com)



**Mr. Amber D. Shampine** is Executive Secretary of the Washington DC Chapter of the International System Safety Association. As Executive Secretary she attends the monthly meetings and any other meetings of the Executive Council.

Ms. Shampine takes meeting minutes for Monthly Chapter and Executive Council (EC) meetings, assembles the monthly newsletter following the Chapter monthly meeting and prepares for review any unique correspondence from the WDC.

Ms. Shampine is a dedicated System Safety professional and is currently a System Safety Engineer at SAIC, Inc. Most importantly, she has served as Past-President of the WDC Chapter and has been a conference leader for some of the most successful ISSS conferences.

**Secretary, WDC Chapter [Elected Position - 1 Year Term]:** The Secretary attends the monthly meetings and any other meetings of the EC. The EC meets routinely once a quarter- or as required. The Secretary takes meeting minutes for Monthly Chapter and EC meetings, assembles the monthly newsletter following the Chapter monthly meeting. The newsletter is about a 1-4 page newsletter depending on how many inputs the Secretary receives from people plus any attachments that may accompany the letter. Additionally, the Secretary prepares for review any unique correspondence from the WDC.



## **New WDC Scholarship & Education Officer**

**DONNE DIFIGLIA**  
difigliad@saic.com



**Donne Marie DiFiglia** is Immediate Past-President of the Washington DC (WDC) Chapter of the International System Safety Society. She is very active in the Scholarship and Education activities of the society, and during her term presented scholarships to eight deserving students at the College of Southern Maryland. Ms. DiFiglia is currently a Senior Principal Systems Safety Engineer at SAIC.

She completed the pre-medical curriculum at the State University of New York at Buffalo where she later taught. She received Masters certification in Real-Time Military Programming at Barrister, did her graduate studies in Computer Architecture at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and completed certification for Software Safety Engineering at the University of Southern California School of Engineering.

In her early career, Ms. DiFiglia was a Senior Computer Scientist developing software for Aegis and Aegis BMD at CSC in Dahlgren, VA. In response to an international incident, she was recruited to design and implement a set of improved Close Control Displays for the Aegis Class of Cruisers and Destroyers. Ms. DiFiglia received a U.S. Navy Commendation for her design which is now in use on Aegis ships. She also received a Naval award for fixing a vital sensor system onboard the DDG 72 USS Mahan. She was an Aegis Trainer and one of the chief developers of the software for the Training Consoles at the Aegis Training and Readiness Center (ATRC) in Dahlgren, VA.

Ms. DiFiglia sat on the Weapon System Explosives Safety Review Board (WSESRB) and the Software System Safety Technical Review Panel (SSSTRP) as a Software Safety Expert and served as deputy to the SSSTRP chairman and ISSS WDC Chapter Past-President Mr. David Champine, with whom she co-authored a paper, "Examining the Use of Model-Based Development and Autocode Generation Tools in Safety-Critical Systems". She worked with the WSESRB Chair and WDC S&EO, Mr. Ed Kratovil to develop policy for Joint Service Safety Review of Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard systems.

Ms. DiFiglia is an experienced web designer with over 60 working websites and has been the sole Webmaster for the Washington DC Chapter since 2007. She also developed and maintained the website for the very successful 2010 International System Safety Conference in Minneapolis. She is an experienced instructor and trains military and civilian personnel in Systems and Software Safety and Agile Methodologies.



### **New WDC Special Projects Officer**

**Janet A. Gill**

[janet.gill@navy.mil](mailto:janet.gill@navy.mil)



**Janet A. Gill, PhD**, is the computer engineer who pioneered software systems safety for U.S. naval aviation. Her career is a milestone in the progress of women in software development. Dr. Gill was responsible for the initiation and launch of the program that evaluates the software system safety of military aircraft weapons systems at the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR, Patuxent River, MD).

Dr. Gill is a contributing author to the Navy's Joint Software Systems Safety Handbook, and an assistant professor at the University of Maryland.

She is currently a NAVAIR Fellow and sits on the Software System Safety Leadership Policy, Training, & Review Boards. Her career at NAVAIR crosses two departments: software engineering and systems safety. As a software system safety expert, she helps "ensure that software in aircraft cannot contribute to loss of life or property or damage to the environment.

Dr. Gill is a long standing member of the WDC Chapter and was the Education and Scholarship Officer for the Washington DC Chapter of the International System Safety Association in SY 2014/2015.

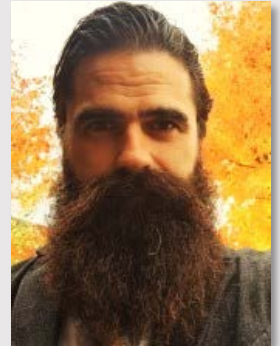




**Meetings and Events:**

**ALL MEMBER CHAPTER MEETING:**

- When: Wednesday, 20 September 2017 starting at 5:00 PM (ET)
- Who: All WDC Chapter members and their guests
- Where: AECOM Conference Center
- Address: 16156 Dahlgren Road, Dahlgren, VA 22448
- Guest Speakers: Mr. Owen Seely
- Time: Briefing starts at 5:15 PM (ET)
- Topic: "Human Reliability Analysis (HRA) Techniques



Mr. Seely received his B.S. in Physics from Hampden-Sydney College and a M.E. in Systems Engineering from the University of Virginia (UVa). While at UVa, he studied a broad set of Systems Engineering methodologies with a focus in Human-Computer Interaction. Mr. Seely began working at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren in 2001, where he led and supported Human Systems Integration (HSI) Teams for weapon systems and ship programs.

In 2005, the Naval Sea Systems Command HSI Directorate designated Mr. Seely as the HSI representative to the Weapon System Explosives Safety Review Board (WSESRB). While serving on the Board, he established HSI best practices for evaluating human error and worked to address HSI activities as part of Systems Safety Programs.

In 2007, Mr. Seely began supporting United States Marine Corps (USMC) acquisition programs and until 2016 directly supported the Chief Engineer's office at Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) as an HSI Technical Area Expert.

Currently, Mr. Seely serves as Senior Human Systems Engineer for USMC Systems in the Dahlgren HSI Branch. Most recently, he is serving as Chair of the DoD HSI Standards Working Group and Vice-Chair of the SAE G45 HSI Technical Committee in leading the development of a DoD HSI Standard Practice, an associated HSI Military Handbook, and a series of new HSI Data Item Descriptions (DIDs).



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**Meetings and Events:**

**ALL MEMBER CHAPTER MEETING:**

- When: Tuesday, 17 October 2017 starting at 5:00 PM (ET)
- Who: All WDC Chapter members and their guests
- Where: AECOM Conference Center
- 16156 Dahlgren Road, Dahlgren, VA 22448
- Guest Speakers: Mr. Dev Raheja
- Topic: "Protecting Your and Your Family from 440,000 Fatal Hospital Mistakes a Year." YouTube Videos: [Safer Hospital Care Part 1](#); [Safer Hospital Care Part 2](#)



Mr. Dev Raheja has been a System Safety and System Reliability Engineering consultant for over 25 years, His range of consulting encompasses transportation systems, electric power systems, high tech industry, aerospace, defense systems, medical systems, and consumer products. He has conducted training in several countries including Sweden, Australia, Japan, UK, Turkey, Germany, Poland, Singapore, Brazil, South Africa, and Canada. He has done training and consulting work with NASA, U.S. Army, GM, Boeing, Eaton, Nissan Aerospace, Litton, General Dynamics, ITT, BAE Systems, Lockheed-Martin, Harley-Davidson, and United Technologies.

Prior to consulting, Mr. Raheja worked at General Electric, Cooper Industries, and at Booz-Allen & Hamilton. He is the author of several books including *Assurance Technologies Principles and Practices* (Second Edition, Wiley 2006), and *Design for Reliability* (Wiley, 2012). A Fellow of the System Safety Society, he has a received Scientific Achievement Award and the Educator-of-the-Year Award from the society.

Mr. Raheja serves on the Patient and Families Advisory Council at Johns Hopkins Hospital as a patient safety advocate. He is Associate Editor for Healthcare Safety for The Journal of System Safety and an Associate Professor at University of Maryland where he teaches the "Design For Reliability" course which includes design for safety and trustworthiness.

Mr. Raheja is a distinguished colleague and published author. [Click Here](#) for books by Dev Raheja.





# The Washington DC Chapter of the International System Safety Society



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### Scholarship Event:

For several years, the WDC Chapter has offered scholarships to outstanding students and aspiring Safety Engineers from the LaPlata Campus of the College of Southern Maryland. This year, 35 students applied and after an initial screening, 16 applicants met all of the scholarship eligibility criteria. Each eligible student wrote an essay and presented their academic and lifetime achievements to the WDC Scholarship Committee for review. It was a difficult decision to choose a recipient because all of the applicants were outstanding both academically and in their achievements.

On 27 October 2016, Vice-President John Burchett and S&EO Donne DiFiglia presented a scholarship award of \$1000.00 and a Certificate of Scholarship to this year's winner and deserving recipient, Mr. Christopher Simmons, at an event that was attended by over 300 students, their sponsors, families and friends.

The WDC Chapter extends well wishes to all of the applicants and congratulations to Mr. Simmons and his family! Well done!





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**Contacts:**

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<b>Webmaster, Scholarship &amp; Education Officer</b>	Donne DiFiglia	difigliad@saic.com	(540) 371-3819
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