

**Captain R. Russell Smith, U.S. Navy**  
**Commanding Officer,**  
**Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center**



A native of Gloucester, Massachusetts, Captain Smith is a 1992 graduate of Maine Maritime Academy.

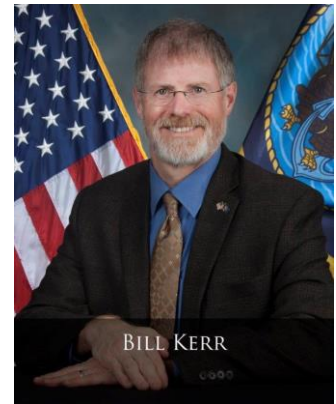
His sea assignments include service as Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 135 Intelligence Officer in USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63) and USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70), where he supported VAQ 135's combat missions during Operation DESERT FOX; Carrier Air Wing 5 Intelligence Officer in Atsugi, Japan, where he deployed again in USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63) throughout the Western Pacific; and Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence for Carrier Strike Group 10, HARRY S. TRUMAN Strike Group, CTF-50, sailing the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, and North Arabian Sea.

Ashore, Captain Smith's assignments include duty as the Senior Iranian Naval Analyst, Naval Forces Central Command in Manama, Bahrain; Officer in Charge of Field Operating Base Europe Detachment Mons, Belgium, from which he deployed to the Balkans; Commanding Officer, Southern Region Joint Operational Intelligence Cell, Naples, Italy; Officer in Charge, Information Dominance Corps Region, Southwest, San Diego, California, and Director of Information Dominance, Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center, Fallon, Nevada.

Captain Smith graduated with distinction from the College of Naval Command and Staff, where he was awarded a Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. He is also a graduate of the Naval Operational Planner Course, now known as the Maritime Advanced Warfighting School.

Captain Smith's personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, as well as various service and campaign awards.

**William A. Kerr III**  
**Technical Director (N0T)**  
**Fleet Numerical Meteorology & Oceanography Center (FNMOC)**



Mr. William A. Kerr III earned a BS degree in Physics at San Diego State University in 1989. With co-inventors, he was awarded US Patent 5,440,660; "Fiber optic microcable produced with fiber reinforced ultraviolet light cured resin and method for manufacturing same" on 8 August 1995. He earned his Project Management Professional certificate from the Project Management Institute on 13 October 2008. He completed the Stanford Advanced Project Management program on 17 September 2011.

From 1981 through 1993, Mr. Kerr worked his way from secretary to electronics technician to physical scientist in support of the Advanced Concepts Branch of the Ocean Engineering Department at the Naval Ocean Systems Center. During this time he participated in multiple optical-fiber related invention and engineering teams and projects.

In 1993 Mr. Kerr transferred to the Systems Integration Division, supporting C4I systems. Mr. Kerr performed C4I system installations aboard fifteen ships and shore commands and provided CM, software and system integration, integration and functional testing, and training in support of several C4I systems.

Mr. Kerr began working with the Navy METOC community during development of requirements for NITES. Mr. Kerr was eventually assigned to the NITES program, serving as lead integrator, later Test Director, and finally as Chief Engineer.

In 2000, Mr. Kerr accepted a position with FNMOC's Systems Division. In 2002, Mr. Kerr transferred to the Technology Advancement Group, working as department deputy and project manager on a variety of IT, METOC, IA, and Web service projects. In 2008, Mr. Kerr transferred into the newly-established FNMOC N9 (set up as a Project Management Support Office) as deputy and project manager.

In 2008, Mr. Kerr was selected to be the head of the newly-established IT Services Department, the first Navy IT MEO under OMB Circular A-76. Mr. Kerr successfully closed out the A-76 study period in September of 2013 and was placed at the head of a reorganized core-IT department in March of 2014.

In June 2015 Mr. Kerr was promoted to FNMOC Technical Director, honored and humbled to represent an outstanding workforce in Navy METOC and Navy IDFOR.

Mr. Kerr's honors include an Exemplary Achievement Award, a Sustained Superior Performance Award, a team award for the microcable invention team, and a Team Leader of the Year award. He has worked for the Navy for 34 years, 15 of them at FNMOC. Not unrelated, he completed the University of California at Davis Winemaking Certificate program on 18 March 2013 and favors red Bordeaux blends.



# NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE

## Commanding Officer

A native of Ohio, Capt. Greg Ireton enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1978 following high school. He graduated with an associate degree in aviation flight technology from Mercer College and a Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology from the University of North Carolina at Asheville in 1997.

He earned a Master of Science degree from the Naval Postgraduate School in meteorology and physical oceanography in 2001.

His first Navy assignment was in Jacksonville, Fla., as part of the Meteorology Environmental Team, where he was deployed to the Caribbean Sea aboard USS Mississippi in 1993 in support of counter-drug operations.

Later, Capt. Ireton served aboard USS Anzio during a six-month Arabian Gulf and Mediterranean Sea deployment as part of the Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group in 1994-95.

In 1997, Capt. Ireton served as the executive officer at Naval Central Meteorology and Oceanography Center in Bahrain, where he supported several Iraqi and Sudan Tomahawk Land Attack Missile strike missions.

In 2001, he transferred to NAS Corpus Christi, Texas, where he served as officer in charge of the 22-person detachment. Capt. Ireton was also added to NAS Corpus Christi and chief of Naval Air Training.

Capt. Ireton reported as the plank owner for the Strike Group Oceanography Team San Diego, where he deployed with Expeditionary Strike Group One aboard USS Tarawa to the Middle East for nearly eight months.



*Capt. Greg S. Ireton*

During the tour, Capt. Ireton screened for command and was detailed to Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Fifth Fleet/Combined Maritime Forces and served as METOC officer and the Maritime Operations Center executive officer.

Prior to being named commanding officer of the Naval Oceanographic Office, he served as executive officer at the command. Previously, he served in Washington, D.C., at OPNAV N80 (Bullpen) as a programmer for more than 220 IDC programs and N2/N6E as a planning, programming, budget and execution coordinator for METOC programs.

Capt. Ireton has earned multiple Meritorious Service Medals, Navy and Marine Corp Commendation Medals and Navy Achievement Medals, as well as a Combat Action Ribbon and numerous campaign, service and unit awards.



# NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE

## Technical Director

Mr. Marcus “Mark” Jarrett is the 13th technical director of the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO), located at the Stennis Space Center in southern Mississippi.

As technical director, Mr. Jarrett is the senior civilian at NAVOCEANO and ensures the technical and long-term programmatic viability of the command, overseeing and directing the development and implementation of new technical approaches to existing processes and products, applying novel operational concepts and modifying programs to meet new and emerging requirements.

Prior to this position, Mr. Jarrett served as the director of NAVOCEANO’s Ocean Projects Department from 2012 to 2016. In this capacity, he was responsible for the planning and execution of survey programs that utilize autonomous underwater vehicles and autonomous sensors in the collection of environmental oceanographic data to support Navy and national requirements.

From 2008 until 2012, Mr. Jarrett served as the director of operations for NAVOCEANO, where his responsibilities included the planning and execution of worldwide environmental oceanographic surveys that utilized six to seven T-AGS class oceanographic survey ships, aircraft and away teams in support of Navy and national requirements.

Mr. Jarrett held the position of deputy director of operations from 2004 to 2008. Prior to 2004, Mr. Jarrett served in various positions within NAVOCEANO, including survey operations planner, survey operations liaison to Commander, Naval Meteorology



*Mark Jarrett*

and Oceanography Command, supervisor of the propagation branch analysis and database section of the acoustics department and acoustician in the acoustics department. Prior to joining NAVOCEANO in 1986, Mr. Jarrett worked as an operations geologist in the private sector.

Mr. Jarrett is a native of Connellsville, Pa. He graduated from the University of Florida in 1981, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology. In 1982, he completed a Master of Science degree in geology from the University of Florida.

His personal awards include meritorious civilian service award (two awards), armed forces civilian service medal (two awards) and the NAVOCEANO silver sea service award.

## Vanessa Griffin

### Director, NOAA/NESDIS Office of Satellite and Product Operations



Vanessa Griffin has over 30 years experience in the Federal Government helping foster the research, development, and operations of the Nation's critical IT systems supporting weather and climate prediction and atmospheric research. In her current position as the Director of NOAA's Office of Satellite and Product Operations (OSPO), Ms. Griffin directs the 550+ person team responsible for the successful operation of seventeen of the Nation's environmental satellites along with the production and analysis of science products using the data from those satellites. Ms. Griffin is responsible for all operations at the NOAA Satellite Operations Facility and at two Command and Data Acquisition Stations. Prior to coming to OSPO, Ms. Griffin served as the Project Manager for NOAA's largest IT development project, responsible for the design and development of the large, complex ground system that NOAA will use to operate the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite - Series R (GOES-R) satellites. As the Project Manager, Ms. Griffin led a 90 plus person team through the successful execution of the GOES-R ground segment design phases and had oversight responsibility for major system development contracts for the core Ground System, the ground receiving equipment and antennas, and construction of facilities needed for the ground segment equipment. Ms. Griffin developed her in-depth knowledge of ground system development and operations while serving in a variety of positions during her extensive career. As Chief of NOAA's Ground Systems Division she sustained and modernized NOAA's satellite ground systems. As the Science Operations Manager for NASA's Earth Observing System Data and Information System she supervised the operations of NASA's nine Distributed Active Archive Centers. She has held a variety of NASA Program Management and System Engineering positions. Ms. Griffin maintains a strong customer-focus cultivated during the ten years she served as an Advanced Meteorologist with the United States Air Force. Ms. Griffin holds a Master of Science Degree in Atmospheric Science from the Georgia Institute of Technology along with Bachelor of Science Degrees in both Meteorology and Computer Science.

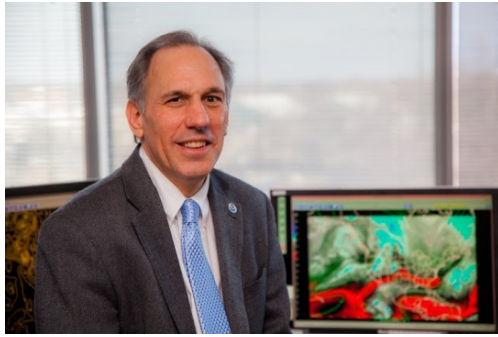
## BIOGRAPHY - STEVEN R. PETERSEN

Mr. Steven R. Petersen, a member of the Senior Executive Service, serves as Director of the Office of Satellite Ground Services (OSGS) within the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service (NESDIS) in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). OSGS is a new organization projected to stand-up in early FY15. OSGS will lead sustainment of legacy NESDIS systems, provide support for GEOS-R and JPSS ground segment development, and develop and migrate existing and future ground capabilities to an integrated, services-based enterprise.

Prior to joining NESDIS Mr. Petersen served as a Defense Intelligence Senior Leader (DISL) assigned as the Chief Technologist, Advanced Systems and Technology Directorate, National Reconnaissance Office, Chantilly, VA. He provided technical oversight of the directorate's information technology portfolio, and lead initiatives to identify new sources and methods, accelerate the pace of technology development, and reduce transition time. Mr. Petersen organized and led two groups that developed new products and services based on the data collected by the NRO's satellites.

After 29 years of commissioned service Mr. Petersen retired from the Air Force in 2006 with the rank of Colonel. In his active duty career he held positions in operations as well as research and development. Mr. Petersen flew on HH-53 and C-130 platforms as a flight test engineer developing equipment used in the aerial recovery of deorbited satellites, and he served as Director of Engineering and Support with Air Force Space Command's 73<sup>rd</sup> Space Group. He also organized and directed many space technology development programs, serving assignments with Space Division, the Air Force Space Technology Center, the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO), the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), and the National Reconnaissance Office. He led the transition of launch warning technology to the first operational system fielded by BMDO, the ALERT Theater Missile Defense Program, at Schriever AFB. Mr. Petersen also served staff assignments as an AFRL Program Element Monitor on the Air Staff and as Deputy Director of Engineering at HQ Air Force Material Command.

(Current as of October 2014)



## BIOGRAPHY

### **Dr. William Lapenta**

Director, National Centers for Environmental Prediction, NCEP/ NWS/NOAA  
5830 University Research Court, Room 3103,  
College Park, MD, 20740



William Lapenta, Ph.D., is the director of NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP). NCEP delivers national and global weather, water, climate and space weather guidance, forecasts, warnings and analyses to help save lives and protect property. As director, Lapenta oversees the planning, science and technology, and operational responsibilities related to NCEP's nine national centers, which include the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla., and Space Weather Prediction Center in Boulder, CO.

Lapenta, 52, began working at NOAA in 2008, first as deputy director of the Environmental Modeling Center (EMC) from 2008 to 2010 then as acting director from 2011 to 2013. At EMC, he was responsible for the development and transition to operations of 25 NOAA numerical modeling systems that help forecasters deliver more accurate climate and weather prediction information for hurricanes, severe thunderstorms, floods, winter storms, ocean currents and waves.

Prior to joining NOAA, Lapenta spent 20 years at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. As deputy manager of the Science and Exploration Research Office from 2006 to 2008, he was responsible for the planning and execution of research and development in space science, earth science and space optics. From 2002 to 2006, Lapenta served as the principal investigator and chief scientist for the NASA Short-term Prediction Research and Transition (SPoRT) Center focused on transitioning NASA earth science research into National Weather Service forecast offices across the country.

Lapenta has a Ph.D. in meteorology from Pennsylvania State University (1990) and a Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology with a minor in mathematics from the State University of New York at Oneonta (1983). He has published numerous journal articles on numerical modeling, land/atmosphere interactions, and regional climate. He was an adjunct professor at the University of Alabama, Huntsville from 1992 to 2008, where he taught graduate level courses in the atmospheric science department.

NCEP is located at the NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction in College Park, Md., which opened in 2012. The world-class facility is home to 825 meteorologists, scientists, data managers and other NOAA employees from NCEP, NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service, and NOAA's Air Resources Laboratory. Scientists at this NOAA center collaborate closely with University of Maryland faculty and students.

A native of Nyack, N.Y., Lapenta is a resident of Northern Virginia. He and his wife, Cathy, have two adult children.



# BIOGRAPHY

*UNITED STATES AIR FORCE*

## COLONEL WILLIAM J. CARLE

Col. William J. Carle is the Commander, 557th Weather Wing, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. He leads more than 1,700 active duty and civil service personnel at 19 locations around the world providing centralized weather products and services, including climatological and space weather support, to Air Force, Army, special operations, intelligence community and other Department of Defense activities. He executes a worldwide weather support mission that provides decision superiority to combat, reconnaissance, command and control, presidential support, treaty verification, and airlift missions directed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, theater, and major command commanders.

Colonel Carle graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1990. He is a master meteorologist and a military parachutist. He previously commanded a squadron, group, and a field operating agency, and served on Air Staff, Joint Special Operations Command, Air Force Special Operations Command, and Pacific Air Forces Command staffs managing weather operations, requirements and resources. Additionally, Colonel Carle was the Air Force representative to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Assistant Federal Coordinator for Meteorology in Washington D.C. Furthermore, he planned and directed weather support and Special Operations Weather Team operations during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Prior to his current assignment, Colonel Carle served as commander, Air Force Weather Agency, Offutt AFB, Neb.

### EDUCATION

1990 Bachelor of Science, United States Air Force Academy  
1991 Bachelor of Science, Meteorology, Texas A&M University  
1995 Master of Science, Meteorology, Texas A&M University  
1996 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB  
2002 Air Command & Staff College by correspondence  
2003 Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk  
2007 Air War College by correspondence  
2011 Master of Strategic Studies, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks

### ASSIGNMENTS

1. December 1990 – December 1991, Student, Basic Meteorology Program, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas



2. December 1991 – April 1993, OIC, Cadre Weather Team, Detachment 7, 1st Weather Group, Fort Ord, Calif.
3. April 1993 – August 1993, Commander, Detachment 7, 1st Weather Group, Fort Ord, Calif.
4. August 1993 – July 1995, Student, Air Force Institute of Technology Civilian Programs, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas
5. July 1995 – July 1997, Typhoon Duty Officer, Joint Typhoon Warning Center, Nimitz Hill, Guam
6. July 1997 – July 2000, Operations Officer, Weather Division, Headquarters, Pacific Air Forces, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
7. July 2000 – July 2003, Chief, Combat Weather Division, Joint Special Operations Command, Ft Bragg, N.C.
8. July 2003 – Aug 2005, Director of Operations, 10th Combat Weather Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
9. August 2005 – May 2006, Chief, Requirements Branch, Air Force Special Operations Forces, Headquarters, Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
10. June 2006 – June 2008, Commander, 11th Operational Weather Squadron, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska
11. July 2008 – June 2010, Deputy Chief, Weather Resources and Programs Division, Directorate of Operations & Training, DCS, Operations, Plans & Requirements, Headquarters United States Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
12. July 2010 – June 2011, Student, US Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Penn.
13. July 2011 – June 2012, Deputy for Federal Programs and Interagency Coordination, Directorate of Operations & Training, DCS, Operations, Plans & Requirements, Headquarters United States Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, D.C., Washington, D.C.
14. June 2012 – June 2014, Commander, 1st Weather Group, Offutt AFB, Neb.
15. June 2014 – March 2015, Commander, Air Force Weather Agency, Offutt AFB, Neb.
16. Mar 2015 – Present, Commander, 557th Weather Wing, Offutt AFB, Neb.

#### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Legion of Merit  
Defense Meritorious Service Medal  
Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters  
Joint Service Commendation medal with two oak leaf clusters  
Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster  
Joint Service Achievement Medal  
Army Achievement Medal  
National Defense Service Medal with bronze star  
Iraq Campaign Medal with two service stars  
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal  
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

#### **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant May 30, 1990  
First Lieutenant May 30, 1992  
Captain May 30, 1994  
Major July 1, 2001  
Lieutenant Colonel July 1, 2006  
Colonel December 1, 2011

(Current as of March 2015)



# BIOGRAPHY

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### 557th Weather Wing

Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska 68113-1023

### MR. CHRISTOPHER T. FINNIGSMIER

Mr. Christopher T. Finnigsmier is currently serving as the Technical Director of the 557th Weather Wing, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. In his role as Technical Director, he assists the commander with the direction, guidance, and oversight of all aspects of execution of the agency's mission to enable the exploitation of timely, accurate, and relevant weather information to satisfy centralized weather support requirements of the Air Force, Army, Joint Chiefs of Staff, designated unified and specified commands, and national program customers.

Mr. Finnigsmier is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy and was commissioned in 1996.

Throughout his career, he has served as a weather officer at the base level, a program manager at the Headquarters level, and Field Operating Agency Executive Officer, and Deputy Director at a Field Operating Agency Directorate.



### EDUCATION:

1996 Bachelor of Science in Meteorology, United States Air Force Academy, CO  
2002 Master of Business Administration, Bellevue University, Bellevue, NE.  
2002 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB AL.  
2007 Air Command and Staff College (Correspondence)  
2010 Information Resources Mgmt College, National Defense University, Ft McNair, Washington, DC  
2013 Air War College (Correspondence)

### ASSIGNMENTS:

1. May 1996 – January 1997, Casual Status, 34 OSS/OSW, US Air Force Academy, CO
2. January 1997 – June 1997, student, Weather Officer Course, Keesler AFB, MS
3. June 1997 – November 1999, Wing Weather Officer, 49 OSS/OSW, Holloman AFB, NM
4. November, 1999 – November 2000, Wing Weather Officer, 8 OSS/OSW, Kunsan AB, ROK
5. November, 2000 – January 2003, Fielded Systems Lead/Branch Chief, Plans and Programs Directorate (XP), Headquarters Air Force Weather Agency, Offutt AFB, NE
6. January 2003 – March 2004, Executive Officer, Air Force Weather Agency, Offutt AFB, NE
7. April 2004 – July 2006, Forecasting Program Manager, Plans and Programs Directorate, Headquarters Air Force Weather Agency, Offutt AFB, NE
8. July 2006 – June 2008, Deputy Chief, Program Management Branch, Headquarters Air Force Weather Agency, Offutt AFB, NE
9. June 2008 – March 2011, Chief, Chief Information Officer Support Branch, Communications Directorate, Headquarters Air Force Weather Agency, Offutt AFB, NE
10. April 2011 – September 2012, Interim Deputy Director of Communications, Communications Directorate, Headquarters Air Force Weather Agency, Offutt AFB, NE

11. September 2012 – March 2015, Deputy Director of Communications, Communications Directorate, Headquarters Air Force Weather Agency, Offutt AFB, NE
12. March 2015 – Present, Technical Director, 557th Weather Wing, Offutt AFB, NE

**CERTIFICATIONS:**

Department of Defense Chief Information Officer  
Chief Information Officer Certificate in Federal Executive Competencies

**MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:**

Meritorious Service Medal  
Special Act or Service Award  
Meritorious Civilian Service Award  
Air Force Commendation Medal with 1 oak leaf cluster