Len Zentz

Len Zentz currently supports the Navy's Strategic Systems Programs managing the National Conventional Prompt Strike (CPS) team toward a 2017 flight common-architecture experiment on the CPS hypersonic program under the Office of Secretary of Defense Acquisition, Technology and Logistics organization.

A graduate of the University of Maryland, Len received a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering in 1983 and the following year he received a Masters in Aerospace Structures from the Alfred Gessow Rotorcraft Center at the University of Maryland.

In 1985, Mr. Zentz commenced working at Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) White Oak in the Reentry Systems Branch performing high temperature thermal structural assessments and was integral in coupling aero and thermal codes together in an automated nonlinear analysis for large deforming systems. He was later promoted to Head of the Structures Group.

Mr. Zentz joined Strategic Systems Programs in the Advanced Reentry Systems section in 1998 where he was integral in working and managing several key developments including the Tactical Missile System-Penetrator, the reentry body inertial measurement unit, and the reentry body refurbishment effort. After several years, Len was promoted to Advanced Reentry Systems Section Lead, where he managed the very successful 2005 Life Extension Test Bed experiment demonstrating an advanced hypersonic error correcting reentry vehicle.

Between 2006 and 2011 Len and family moved to rural Virginia where Len volunteered teaching science to elementary and middle school students in Lexington VA.

Beginning in 2011, Len rejoined the Navy's Strategic Systems Programs where he helped with Research & Development efforts and ultimately assumed his current position supporting the CPS hypersonic program. This effort is a miniaturization and follow-on to the successful 2011 Sandia National Lab Advanced Hypersonic Weapon-1 architecture, that was led by the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command. Mr. Zentz works closely with other key supporting organizations include the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center, Draper Labs, NSWC Crane, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.