



Mr. Christian J. Utara

Chief Engineer

Ship & Shore Based Electronic Systems

Naval Aviation Systems Command, AIR 4.5



In 2005, Mr. Christian Utara was selected as the Chief Engineer for Ship & Shore Based Electronics Systems, AIR 4.5, located in St. Inigoes, Maryland. Mr. Utara, a NAVAIR Associate Fellow, provides technical oversight for projects in the areas of air traffic control, combat identification, shipboard communications, air/ship integration, and expeditionary warfare communications with an annual budget in excess of \$550M.

Mr. Utara also supports Navy Carrier programs as the NAVAIR Chief Engineer for carrier-based warfare systems. In this role, he represents NAVAIRSYSCOM, PEO(T), PEO(W), and PEO(JSF) and oversees all air/ship warfare system integration efforts.

Mr. Utara represents NAVAIR as a technical advisor, expert consultant, and liaison for all ATC and Combat ID radar processing, Identification Friend or Foe processing, radar distribution, and display systems. He is regularly called upon to provide systems engineering guidance to a variety of Naval Aviation and ship integration programs.

In 1985, Mr. Utara began his journey in the field of engineering by entering the Navy's Cooperative Education Program while attending school as a student in the Electrical Engineering Department of the University of Maryland, College Park. He graduated in 1990 with a BSEE degree.

After graduating, Mr. Utara continued his career with the Navy as an Electrical Engineer, designing combat identification systems for U.S. Navy surface ships, concentrating in the areas of field programmable gate array (FPGA) and printed circuit board (PCB) design. In 1993, he was assigned as the lead of the Combat ID Engineering Design Team, and led the systems engineering, hardware and software design, integration, test, and installation of combat identification systems. During this time, he authored and presented a number of papers focused on methods to fuse data from dissimilar organic and non-organic sensors.

Prior to being selected as Chief Engineer, Mr. Utara led the Air Traffic Control Processing & Display Systems Branch and was responsible for the design, development, production, fielding and support of all Navy shipboard and shore-based air traffic control systems. During this period, he led the NAVAIR Future Platforms Team, responsible for addressing air traffic control, combat identification, and communications integration challenges on next generation ship platforms.

Mr. Utara continued his education at Johns Hopkins University and graduated in 1999 with a Master of Science in Systems Engineering (MSSE). He is currently an instructor and advisor for the JHU MSSE program. Since 2003, he has been performing doctoral study in the areas of organizational leadership and systems engineering.