



AEROSPACE ENGINEERING SCIENCES

Professional Development Seminar



Simona E. Kelley
Director of Army Avionics Programs
**Northrop Grumman Electronics
Systems**

Program Management: New Paradigms in Affordability Management

With shrinking and limited defense budgets, new paradigms for doing business need to be explored to ensure US technical superiority. The United States' technological superiority over potential adversaries is being threatened today in a way that we have not seen for decades. Our military today depends on a suite of dominant capabilities that originated in the '70s and '80s, which has been enhanced and upgraded since, but has not fundamentally changed. Potential adversaries have had decades to study the American way and field systems and tactics designed to defeat American forces. Our technological superiority is not assured, and in fact it is being challenged very effectively right now. There remains a US focus on continuous improvement with a new emphasis on initiatives that encourage innovation and promote technical excellence with the overarching goal of ensuring that the United States' military has the dominant capabilities to meet future national security requirements at an affordable cost. This professional seminar will discuss some innovative ways to provide affordable continuous improvements and to promote technical superiority, which can most effectively be achieved by those daring to demonstrate "how big is their want to".

Thursday, October 16, 2014
2:00 – 3:00 pm
DLC Collaboratory

Mrs. Kelley is a Director of Programs with 19+ years experience in space and air systems development, integration and production, advanced technology and product transition, delivering innovative open system architecture solutions/products to meet customer and market demand, and establishing excellent customer trust and relationships. She has demonstrated expertise in program management (P&L), supplier management, strategic capture planning, and personnel management. She is experienced in developing mission concepts for product research and business plans with a strong record of building and leading high performance teams across-functional areas from various organizations. Experienced interfacing with all levels of management, across business and engineering sectors, and customer cultures. She managed the development and demonstration of the Relative Navigation technology and the Autonomous Aerial Refueling program for the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL). She led the spacecraft integration and test of the National Polar Orbital Environmental Sensor Suite (NPOESS) program sensors onto the NPOESS Preparatory Project (NPP) spacecraft. She has led system design and requirement development, modeling, and performance verification for directed energy programs, and various Electrical-Optical (EO) sensors. She is currently the Program Director for Army Avionics programs at Northrop Grumman.

She received her Bachelor and Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder specializing in GPS and controls systems. She also received a Master of Science in Optical Sciences from the University of Arizona Optical Science Center where her thesis was on segmented deformable thin membrane mirrors. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her three kids and husband and hiking, biking (road and mountain), and kayaking as much as she can.