



SYSTEMS SYMPOSIUM 2026

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Panel Member

John Garrity

*Vice President and Product Line General Manager
for DE Systems, AeroVironment (AV)*

John Garrity is the Vice President and Product Line General Manager for Directed Energy Systems at AeroVironment (AV), where he leads one of the defense industry's fastest-growing directed energy portfolios focused on counter-unmanned aircraft systems (CUAS). John has played a central role in advancing next-generation laser weapon systems and advanced C-UAS capabilities from initial prototype, to fielding deployed systems designed to defeat Group 1–3 unmanned aircraft and help the U.S. military and its allies win the economic curve against low-cost aerial threats.

Since 2020, John has led the rapid expansion of AV's Directed Energy business, scaling the organization from a six-person prototype team into a workforce of more than 150 engineers, operators, and program professionals by 2026. This team leads the defense industry in successfully developing and fielding advanced ISR, tracking, targeting, and high-energy laser systems to warfighters across the globe.

Prior to joining AV, John held roles in Supply Chain and Program Operations at Raytheon, supporting major defense programs and developing expertise in supplier strategy, execution, and cross-functional integration. He previously worked in small business subcontracting at Harmonix Technologies, supporting federal capture, partner management, and program execution. His academic background includes executive and advanced management studies at Harvard University, the Yale School of Management, Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of New Mexico.