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Panel Member

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John Hartke is a senior technical advisor for directed energy supporting the US Army Space and Missile Defense Command Technical Center, US Army Portfolio Acquisition Executive (PAE) Fires, and OUSW R&E Scaled Directed Energy (SCADE). Within SCADE he supports the integration of directed energy weapon systems into the Services and the Joint force through mission engineering and DOTMLPF-P development.

Dr. Hartke is a US Army veteran with over 36 years of active-duty service as a combat engineer in a variety of operational, command, and academic assignments that include combat deployments to Operation Desert Storm with the 20th Engineer Battalion, 20th Engineer Brigade (Airborne), and twice to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan with the NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan. He also deployed to Liberia for Operation United Assistance as a part of the US response to the Ebola outbreak in Africa with the 36th Engineer Brigade. He retired from the Army at the rank of brigadier general.

His education background includes a B.S. in Engineering Management from the United States Military Academy at West Point, a M.S. in Physics from the Naval Postgraduate School, and a Ph.D. in Optical Sciences from the College of Optical Sciences at the University of Arizona. He is a Professor Emeritus and the former Professor United States Military Academy and Head of the Department of Physics and Nuclear Engineering at West Point with over 20 years of involvement in high energy laser research and development.