



SYSTEMS SYPOSIUM 2026

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Panel Member

Matt McQuage

Navy Distinguished Engineer for Directed Energy

Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division (NSWCDD)

Mr. Matt McQuage currently serves as the Navy Distinguished Engineer for Directed Energy at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division. As the Department of the Navy's foremost authority in DE weapon systems, Mr. McQuage leads research, development, test, evaluation, integration, and deployment efforts across advanced DE technologies. He serves as the Navy's senior SME, facilitating collaboration among Navy, Joint Services, Department of Defense, and international partners.

Previously, Mr. McQuage was the Acting Director of the Joint Directed Energy Transition Office (JDETO), overseeing an \$180 million annual budget supporting projects with academic, industry, and government partners worldwide. An internationally recognized expert in High Power Microwave (HPM), pulsed power, and non-kinetic weapon effects, he also advises senior leaders within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Critical Technologies.

In earlier roles at NSWCDD, Mr. McQuage served as Deputy Director of the Research Institute for Directed Energy and as the High Power Microwave Portfolio Director, coordinating a diverse portfolio across Navy, Air Force, and Department of Energy collaborations.

Mr. McQuage has driven the delivery of more than a dozen prototype HPM weapon systems for force protection, non-kinetic strike, and air defense applications. He has authored over 100 research project proposals and led initiatives integrating Directed Energy and Electronic Warfare technologies. His work includes pioneering research in Ultra Short Pulse Laser and Laser Guided Energy concepts.

He holds a Master's and Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Texas Tech University. Mr. McQuage's awards include the 2024 Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award and the 2016 Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition) Dr. Delores M. Etter Top Scientists and Engineers Award.