2013 Roger W. Jones Award for Executive Leadership

Mr. Keith L. Englander, SES
Director for Engineering
Missile Defense Agency

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Part 1 – Biographical Profile

Biographical Summary:

Mr. Keith L. Englander assumed his current duties as Director for Engineering, Missile Defense Agency (MDA), on January 9, 2006. In this capacity, he serves as MDA's Single Technical Authority for all matters related to the technical planning, development, integration and fielding of the highly complex Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS). He is responsible for direction and oversight of all activities associated with BMDS systems engineering and technical integration; modeling and simulation in support of BMDS requirements definition and capability verification; and technical intelligence assessment, including ballistic missile threat definition and cyber security.

A member of the Senior Executive Service since 1997, Mr. Englander earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace and Ocean Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1975 and a Masters degree in Public Administration from George Washington University in 1996. He is also a graduate of the Defense Systems Management College where he is Level 3 certified in Program Management and in Systems Planning, Research, Development and Engineering.

Mr. Englander's civil service career began in 1975 with the Department of the Navy, where he was responsible for the design and development of propellant devices for rocket motors. He later served as Chief Engineer for the Navy A-6 attack aircraft. In 1992, Mr. Englander joined the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization (SDIO), heading the Brilliant Pebbles System Engineering and Integration Directorate. When SDIO transitioned to the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO), he joined the National Missile Defense (NMD) Program as System Engineering Director, followed by an assignment as the Deputy for Integration, before being promoted to Technical Director. As BMDO transitioned to MDA, Mr. Englander was promoted to serve first as the MDA Deputy for System Engineering and Integration and later as the Deputy Director for Technology and Engineering before assuming his current position.

His professional recognition includes three Presidential Rank Awards and the Secretary of Defense's Exceptional Civilian Service Award.

- Oct 1997 – Nov 2000: Technical Director, National Missile Defense Program Office
- Nov 2000 – Mar 2003: Deputy for Systems Engineering, Missile Defense Agency
- Mar 2003 – Nov 2003: Deputy for Systems Engineering & Integration, Missile Defense Agency
- Nov 2003 – Jan 2006: Deputy Director for Technology & Engineering, Missile Defense Agency
- Jan 2006 – Present: Director for Engineering, Missile Defense Agency

Program Results:

As the Missile Defense Agency's Single Technical Authority and senior engineer, Mr. Englander serves the Nation by creating the vision and providing the leadership required by the

Department of Defense and the Missile Defense Agency to develop an effective Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) to defend the nation, its deployed forces, and its friends and allies against ballistic missiles of all ranges and in all phases of flight. He is solely responsible for resolving all technical issues associated with this complex, worldwide, multi-billion dollar system. As the Agency's Engineering Functional Manager, he recruits, hires, trains, assigns, and leads all MDA engineering personnel. Mr. Englander serves as the Agency's single technical voice to senior Department of Defense leaders, the State Department, the National Security Staff, the Congress, other external organizations and our international partners.

Mr. Englander's long tenure as MDA's senior engineering executive, the longest in the Agency's history, is the result of his disciplined application of proven systems engineering principles toward the development and testing of the most complex program in the Department of Defense. Since President Reagan's 1983 declaration of the Strategic Defense Initiative, no single person has contributed more to achieve the Agency's goal of protecting the United States from ballistic missile attack than Mr. Englander. Thousands of hours of self-sacrifice, driven by an overwhelming desire to deliver world-class engineering services, have resulted directly in exceptionally notable accomplishments, including:

- Engineering the nation's first credible ballistic missile defense system in response to a presidential directive to "develop, demonstrate and deploy (when directed) a system to defend the United States against a limited ballistic threat." Mr. Englander formed and continues to lead a government and industry engineering team of over 2500 world class engineers who responded decisively by transforming a collection of independent, Service-owned weapon, sensor and command and control programs into a single overarching, integrated system architecture that is now deployed worldwide. Challenged by real world events, Mr. Englander formed a "National Team" of government, industry and academic experts to establish an initial defensive capability to be deployed in 2004. Displaying unprecedented technical leadership he motivated this multifaceted team to identify critical interface requirements that allowed disparate systems to work as one integrated system, taking advantage of the full design limits of each component and creating a single system with significantly more capability than the sum of its individual parts. Since this historic initial deployment in 2004, his team has continued to improve capability and reliability, engineering extraordinary solutions and meeting critical timelines.
    - For example, potentially threatening North Korean missile launches required Mr. Englander's direct and personal support to the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Council, and the President in placing the system in its first state of alert.
    - A request for help from the National Reconnaissance Office to intercept an aging satellite (in decaying orbit and posing a potential threat to populated areas) presented an exceptional challenge. Analyses showed several BMDS elements had a capability to achieve the intercept. However, Mr. Englander reasoned the flexibility and adaptability of the sea-based Aegis system offered the least impact to the program and provided the best chance of success. Based on this analysis, his engineers quickly defined and verified required modifications to Aegis missiles, radars, and weapon system software. With the support of other BMDS assets, the Agency successfully executed a pinpoint intercept by striking the satellite within centimeters of the calculated 'aim point.' Mr. Englander's superb technical and professional leadership potentially saved many lives by this system accomplishment.

- Mr. Englander performed analyses, developed and presented briefings, and participated in negotiations which led to significant international progress in missile defense. With U.S. engineering support, the Japanese government demonstrated their Navy's first sea-based intercept using their version of the Aegis Weapon System. Japan has also committed to jointly develop a sea-based interceptor capable of intercepting long-range missiles. Through his leadership, the United States also reached agreement with Israel for cooperative development of an exo-atmospheric interceptor, amending the U.S.-Israel Arrow Weapon System Improvement Program agreement to extend the system's battlespace and enhance its ability to defeat countermeasures. Based heavily on Mr. Englander's technical support, MDA initiated the first-ever Foreign Military Sale of the THAAD system to the United Arab Emirates. Stability in the Pacific Rim as well as the Middle East was enhanced by these accomplishments directly attributable to Mr. Englander's technical expertise and personal charisma.
- As MDA's single authority for all technical interactions with NATO, other allies, and the Russian Federation, Mr. Englander cultivated relationships that fostered a better understanding of missile defense capabilities and led to enhanced collaboration with foreign partners on missile defense issues. Through NATO technical committees, he promoted analyses that led to confirmation of the importance of missile defense to the Alliance at the Strasbourg-Kehl Summit, where NATO heads of state and government supported the deployment of U.S. long-range missile defense elements in Europe to counter the ballistic missile threat from Iran. Based on this support and Mr. Englander's architecture analysis and options, President Obama announced a new phased, adaptive approach (PAA) to ballistic missile defense in Europe. Working with the National Security Staff and the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Mr. Englander refined ballistic missile defense architectures featuring deployment of increasingly capable sea and land-based missile interceptors and a range of sensors in Europe. He provided a variety of deployment options for the placement of missile defense assets, giving State Department and DoD negotiators the required flexibility to conduct meaningful bi-lateral discussions with countries such as the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, and Turkey. Additionally, Mr. Englander developed the engineering basis for U.S. interlocutors to assure the Russians that the PAA's ballistic missile defense capabilities posed no threat to Russia. Mr. Englander's ability to provide credible, quick-turn engineering analysis was critical in obtaining Administration and international support of the PAA concept, providing the U.S. with a more flexible strategy to regional missile defenses and saving critical national resources.