
COMMANDING OFFICER, CAPTAIN JEFFREY "JT" ELDER, USN
NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER, CRANE DIVISION
NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND



Captain Jeffrey 'JT' Elder assumed command of the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division (NSWC Crane) in June 2014. NSWC Crane delivers innovative solutions and readiness to the Nation and its Warfighters through application of its Technical Capabilities.

His fleet tours include deployments with the Sea Griffins of HS-9 in Jacksonville, FL, the Wyverns of HS-12 in Atsugi, Japan and the Dusty Dogs of HS-7 in Jacksonville, FL. He served as Air Boss in USS TRENTON (LPD-14), deployed out of Norfolk, VA, where he gained in-depth experience in Marine Corps Expeditionary Warfare.

Captain Elder joined the acquisition community in 2002 upon becoming an Aerospace Engineering Duty Officer. His acquisition experience includes tours as Military Director in the Cost and Analysis Department within the Naval Aviation Systems Command (NAVAIR)

Research & Engineering competency, and as a Secretary of Defense Corporate Fellow spending one year at a host DoD industry partner learning corporate best business practices relevant to the DoD.

Captain Elder served as Deputy Director in the Special Communications Directorate and as a Program Manager in the Advanced Systems and Technology Directorate, both in the National Reconnaissance Office, where he led DoD and Intelligence Community classified acquisition programs. He also served as both head of the Enterprise Systems Engineering Division in the National Security Space Office and as IPT lead for amphibious assault ship air/ship integration in PMA-251/AIR-1.2 in NAVAIR. A staff tour as the Executive Assistant to the Principal Military Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition provided insight to the decision processes of the Navy Service Acquisition Executive.

Captain Elder is a native of St. Louis, Missouri. He earned a bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering from Iowa State University in 1988, was commissioned in 1989 and earned his Wings of Gold in August of 1990. He earned master's degrees in Astronautical Engineering and Applied Physics in 1997, both from the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS). During his NPS tour he served with the CNO Strategic Studies Group XVI developing concepts to improve warfighting capabilities of the "Navy After Next."

His personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal (individual action), Joint Service Commendation Medal (with oak leaf cluster), Navy Commendation Medal (with two gold stars) and various campaign and service ribbons. He has logged more than 2800 flight hours in military and civilian, rotary and fixed wing, aircraft.