



United States Navy Biography

Dr. David A. Drazen, SES

Technical Director Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division

Dr. David A. Drazen was appointed to the Senior Executive Service (SES) in May 2026 and currently serves as the Technical Director for the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division (NSWC Carderock). In this capacity, he oversees the research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E), analysis, systems engineering, design, integration, and certification of complex naval warfare systems. His portfolio supports manned and unmanned ships, combatant craft, and vehicles for both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps.

Prior to his current appointment, Dr. Drazen served as the Deputy Division Technical Director at NSWC Carderock from 2024 to 2026. In that role, he provided executive technical leadership and direct support to the Division Technical Director, managing and overseeing all technical work performed across the Division.

Dr. Drazen possesses extensive experience directing complex Naval R&D programs. His federal career began in 2008 with research focused on the ocean environment's impact on ship and submarine performance. His early leadership roles at NSWC Carderock included serving as a Senior Oceanographer and the DDG-1000 Hull Form Plan Integrated Product Team (IPT) Manager.

From 2016 to 2018, Dr. Drazen served as a Staff Specialist within the Office of the Under Secretary of War for Research and Engineering (OUSW(R&E)). In this position, he provided authoritative advice to senior OSW leadership regarding a broad portfolio of Science and Technology (S&T) investments. Returning to NSWC Carderock, he managed the Division's Digital Twin Program before transitioning to the role of Division Chief Technology Officer (CTO) from 2020 to 2024. As CTO, he successfully managed a \$30 million internal R&D portfolio and spearheaded critical national-level S&T initiatives.

Dr. Drazen holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Johns Hopkins University and earned his Doctorate in Physical Oceanography in 2006 from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego. Prior to joining the U.S. Navy as a civilian, he was a postdoctoral researcher in fluid dynamics at the University of Oslo in Norway.

