

**James J. (Jeff) Mercer**  
*Director (Acting), Joint Tactical Networking Center (JTNC)*



Mr. James (Jeff) Mercer was assigned as the Director (Acting), Joint Tactical Networking Center (JTNC) in January, 2015. Previously, he served as the JTNC Deputy Director (Acting) and Director, Corporate Communications and Public Affairs. He is responsible for organizing the development, and providing leadership in the execution of tactical and strategic plans for the JTNC. He directly leads and manages a team of acquisition, financial, technical, operations and administrative professionals in executing the JTNC mission of ensuring interoperable, secure, and affordable waveform and wireless communications by recommending standards, conducting compliance and certification assessments, and maintaining the Department of Defense (DoD) Waveform Information Repository in accordance with DoD policies.

Before joining the JTNC, Mr. Mercer served as the Director, Strategic Communications for the Joint Program Executive Office Joint Tactical Radio System (JPEO JTRS). As the Director, Strategic Communications, Mr. Mercer served as the principal strategic communications advisor to the Joint Program Executive Officer, as well as subordinate program managers and directors. Mission areas of responsibility included establishing stakeholder and general public understanding of the vision, mission, strategy, goals and objectives of the JPEO JTRS, developing consistent, effective and detailed strategic communications plans and programs to reflect near- and long-term objectives of the JPEO JTRS, external communications, stakeholder engagement, public affairs, media relations, management of the public website, congressional liaison, industry relations, liaison with academia, the general public, federal, state, and local civic communities.

Before joining JPEO JTRS, Mr. Mercer had a distinguished career in the Air Force. Born in Gonzales, Texas, he enlisted in the Air Force in 1975 and completed almost four years of duty in Ground Radio Electronics prior to being selected to attend college under the Airman Scholarship Commissioning program. In 1982, he re-entered active duty following his graduation from the University of Arizona and commissioning as a second lieutenant. An Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps distinguished graduate, he has had numerous assignments in the communications and information systems career field culminating with commanding the Air Mobility Command and 375<sup>th</sup> Communications Group, Scott Air Force Base, Missouri. He has twice commanded communications squadrons, served on Headquarters Air Force, Major Command, Numbered Air Force, and Unified Combatant Commander staffs, and led communicators supporting Operation Southern Watch and numerous Air and Space Expeditionary Force deployments. He retired at the rank of Colonel in September 2007.

Mr. Mercer graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Management Information Systems and Operations Management from the University of Arizona in 1981. He also holds a Master of Arts (MA) from Webster University and Master of Strategic Studies from the Air War College. He is a member of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA).