

Vernon J. Parks Jr.



Vernon J. Parks Jr., a native of New Jersey, is a Senior Professional member of the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU APL), leading JHU APL's efforts in Submarine Warfare as well as providing Naval and Joint Military subject matter expertise in several projects related to anti-submarine warfare operations, lethality and kill chain effectiveness, and subsea and sea-bed operations. Prior to joining the APL team, Mr. Parks retired as a Captain from the U.S. Navy after serving as a Submarine Officer and Joint Officer in various and diverse assignments over the course of 30+ years.

The Submarine Warfare Program Area's mission at JHU APL is to extend the influence and reach of U.S. submarines by executing programs and studies for the U.S. Navy and Department of Defense with an emphasis on stealth, sensors, tactical operations, and wartime payloads.

Mr. Parks also serves as the Compliance Manager for Icing Smiles, Inc., a non-profit organization operating in all 50 States and in the District of Columbia. Icing Smiles provides custom celebration cakes and other treats to families impacted by the critical illness of a child. Mr. Parks volunteers his time ensuring his team complies with regulatory and ethical standards as well as internal policy and requirements.

In the U.S. Navy, Mr. Parks commanded Submarine Development Squadron TWELVE (DEVRON 12) from May 2012 – June 2014, where he was responsible for leading tactical development for the U.S. Submarine Force as well as manning, training, and equipping 9 front-line Los Angeles-class and Virginia-class fast attack nuclear-powered submarines.

He also commanded USS SANTA FE (SSN 763) from January 2007 – January 2010, during which time his crew completed a Depot Modernization Period, conducted a homeport shift and interfleet transfer from Portsmouth, NH to Pearl Harbor, HI, deployed to the Western Pacific and was awarded the 2009 COMSUBRON SEVEN Battle Efficiency "E" award for operational readiness and mission excellence as well as several other ship and department awards.

At-sea, Mr. Parks served in USS BATON ROUGE (SSN 689), USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER (SSN 709), PCU/USS LOUISIANA (SSBN 743G), and USS HELENA (SSN 725). Ashore, his Naval and Joint Military staff assignments supported submarine operations, Joint Force global force management and operations, Navy personnel policy, and defense and naval strategy.

Mr. Parks graduated from the Pennsylvania State University in 1989 with a B.A. in Political Science and holds advanced degrees in Business Administration from Brenau University and National Security Strategy from the National Defense University.