

Bio

Donald (Don) Rigali

Don Rigali is an Emeritus Director from Sandia National Laboratories and is nationally recognized for his contributions to reentry systems, hypersonics, and terradynamics technologies. Don directed the Aerospace Systems Development Center activities at Sandia in the areas of hypersonic weapons technology, National Missile Defense, Theater Missile Defense, smart targeting, and access to space. Under Don's direction, the Center became a recognized, national leader for conducting rapid, proof-of-principle/pre-prototype demonstrations of reentry, weapons, countermeasures, space, rocket, aerodynamic flight, and handicap mobility systems. He led the early development flight testing of the materials and thermal protection systems that are used in all the modern US re-entry vehicles. Flight testing of over one hundred one-of-kind re-entry vehicles and over fifty rockets with extremely high success was the specialty of his organization. This included: threat and countermeasures and penetration aids; ICBM reentry vehicle soft recovery; hypersonic (Mach=13) maneuvering glide vehicle (SWERVE); high speed (4000 fps) earth penetrators, Mach=6.5 rocket sled tests, and smart target and light weight target technology to name a few of the programs. Don has been on numerous national committees and received numerous awards and recognition for his contributions to US National Security and Defense. .



Don Rigali
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