



MR. RICH KRETZSCHMAR
Acting Deputy Program Executive Officer
PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICE, AVIATION



Mr. Kretzschmar possesses twenty-five years of aerospace engineering experience encompassing a variety of missile, rotary and fixed wing aircraft and unmanned aircraft systems. Mr. Kretzschmar has acted as the Deputy Program Executive Officer for Aviation since December 2016. Before that, Mr. Kretzschmar has served as the Project Manager for the Improved Turbine Engine / Future Vertical Lift (ITE/FVL) Project Office within Program Executive Office for Aviation. This office is responsible for the life cycle management of the turbine engine replacement and Army future vertical lift fleet of aircraft. This responsibility includes the development, acquisition, testing, integration and sustainment activities associated with these future weapon system programs. Other duties include the management and direction of internal operations such as personnel, finance, management controls and supervision of division chiefs and product managers. Prior assignments include, Deputy Project Manager, Army Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office; Deputy Director, Aviation and Missile, Research Development and Engineering Center; Acting Director, System Simulation and Development Directorate; Deputy Director of the System Simulation and Development Directorate; Program Director for the High Speed Outer Tier Technology Development Program, Chief of the Aerodynamics Technology Branch of the System Simulation and Development Directorate; and System Engineering Lead for the Tactical UAV Program of the Unmanned Aerial Systems Program Office. Mr. Kretzschmar holds both BS and MS degrees in Aerospace Engineering from Auburn University and an MA degree in Business Administration from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is level III certified in Program Management and Advanced System Engineering, Research, Development and Engineering career fields.

Mr. Kretzschmar has won numerous awards including the Army Aviation Association of America 2014 Department of the Army Civilian of the Year Award, the 2014 Association of the United States Army (Redstone Chapter) Civilian of the Year, The Department of the Army Superior Civilian Service Award, the Department of the Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service and the 2004 Outstanding Young Auburn Engineer Award.

Mr. Kretzschmar is a member of a number of professional organizations including the Association of the United States Army, American Helicopter Society and serves as a board member for the Pathfinder Chapter of the Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International and Army Space and Missile Defense Association. As a member of the Auburn University Engineering Advisory Council, the Aerospace Engineering Advisory Council, and the Auburn University Huntsville Research Advisory Board, Mr. Kretzschmar is a dedicated advocate and supporter of Auburn University.

In addition to his professional responsibilities, Mr. Kretzschmar is an active member of his local community. He is an active participant in youth sporting activities and has served a variety of leadership roles for the Huntsville International League, including baseball and football coach and league scheduler. He served as President of the Blossomwood Swimming Association and is an Elder of the First Presbyterian Church in Huntsville.