

J. Michael Gilmore Receives the American Statistical Association’s Defense and National Security Distinguished Achievement Award

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (August 22, 2017) – J. Michael Gilmore, former director of operational test and evaluation (DOT&E) for the Department of Defense (DOD), received the Defense and National Security Distinguished Achievement Award from the American Statistical Association’s (ASA’s) Section on Defense and National Security at the 2017 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) earlier this month in Baltimore.

The award recognizes outstanding accomplishment or sustained contribution at the intersection of the statistical profession and national defense. Gilmore was honored for making fundamental changes to how the DOD designs and analyzes data from operational tests, along with his strong advocacy of statistically rigorous test methods to both improve the information gained from testing and provide clear justification of the required resources.

“I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award,” said Ron Fricker, chair of the Defense and National Security Distinguished Achievement Award committee and statistics department head at Virginia Tech. “I had the privilege of serving on a number of National Academies panels sponsored by DOT&E that were focused on improving how DOD conducts test and evaluation, including how it employs statistical methods to rigorously design and analyze the tests. In so doing, I was able to personally observe Dr. Gilmore’s strong and unwavering commitment to do the right thing, both in terms of testing and in support of our men and women in uniform.”

Established by Congress in 1983, the DOT&E does not make acquisition decisions, but instead informs those who make such decisions about system performance under realistic operating conditions. A presidential appointee who is confirmed by the Senate, the director monitors all operational testing in DOD and, by law, reports independently to Congress. In 2016, DOT&E monitored more than 300 DOD acquisition programs. Total DOD planned investment in the largest 79 of these programs is \$1.44 trillion. Therefore, cost and complexity associated with these programs makes rigorous testing a critical part of the acquisition system.

“At the DOT&E, Dr. Gilmore was an extraordinary advocate for using statistical methods in the testing of defense systems,” notes Laura Freeman, chair of the ASA’s Section on Statistics in Defense and National Security. “He single-handedly changed the fundamental methodologies used across all services and components. It is worth noting that, in 1998, the National Research Council recommended using many of these methods to improve operational testing, but it took Dr. Gilmore’s leadership and vision to make it a reality.”

Sworn in as the sixth DOT&E on September 23, 2009, Gilmore supported four secretaries of defense through both terms of the Obama administration. Prior to that, he served as assistant director for national security at the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and deputy director of general purpose programs within the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Gilmore earned a bachelor's degree in physics from MIT and master's and doctoral degrees in nuclear engineering from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

###

About the American Statistical Association

The ASA is the world's largest community of statisticians and the oldest continuously operating professional science society in the United States. Its members serve in industry, government and academia in more than 90 countries, advancing research and promoting sound statistical practice to inform public policy and improve human welfare. For additional information, please visit the ASA website at www.amstat.org.

For more information:

Jill Talley

Public Relations Manager

(703) 684-1221, ext. 1865

jill@amstat.org