Dr. LaPlante is responsible for all of APL's work in support of offensive military effects including conventional tactical and strategic nuclear weapon systems, their associated Command and Control systems, electronic attack, and related Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance systems. The Global Engagement Department has over 550 employees and consists of two business areas – Precision Engagement and Strategic Systems, and is responsible for two Cross Enterprise Laboratory Initiatives: Net-centric Command and Control and US Strategic Command. Dr. LaPlante has been a member of the Laboratory's Executive Council since 2003, and is on many other leadership initiatives within JHU/APL. Dr. LaPlante was appointed as member of the Defense Science Board in 2010, and is currently co-chairing a Summer Study on Military Adaptability. Dr. LaPlante has also participated in numerous senior defense panels on subjects such as Missile Defense, remote Conventional Strike, Information Management, and autonomous vehicles sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences, the Naval Research Advisory Committee, the US Strategic Command, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics). Prior to his appointment as a Department Head in 2003, Dr. LaPlante was the Associate Department Head of the National Security Technology Department, which includes domains of Undersea Warfare, Homeland Protection, and Biomedicine, and was the day-to-day operations manager of all of JHU/APL's Undersea Warfare work. Earlier he served as the Program Area Manager for the Strategic Submarine (SSBN) Security Program and was Chief Scientist and Technical Director for several large at-sea experiments. He began his career at APL in 1985 and held various technical positions related to combat systems engineering and evaluation, underwater acoustics, related signal processing, and undersea warfare. Dr. LaPlante is an adjunct lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at The Catholic University of America and teaches graduate courses in discrete time control systems.

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