



MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY

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BIOGRAPHY

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Walter S. Chai

**Director of Space Capabilities
and
Missile Defense Integration and Operations Center**

Mr. Walter Chai, a member of the Senior Professional service since October 2016, is the Director of Space Capabilities and the Director of the Missile Defense Integration and Operations Center (MDIOC), Missile Defense Agency (MDA).

Since 2013, he is responsible for developing, operating, exploiting, and integrating missile defense satellites and joint space capabilities for the Missile Defense System (MDS). This includes increasing the capability and contribution of space-based sensors to the missile defense regional and homeland defense missions against emerging and future threats, providing acquisition assessments, advice, and recommendations and ensuring MDA space assets are effectively leveraged to improve the design and operation of future MDS space sensors.

In addition, Mr. Chai is responsible for operating the MDA field activity, ensuring the effective and efficient integration of concurrent test, training, and operations activities of the MDS. He ensures MDIOC facility operations and sustainment capabilities are robust and sufficient to support the myriad of missile defense activities executed within the MDIOC to include: Command, Control, Battle Management and Communications, the Missile Defense Space Center, Ground Testing, Flight Testing, Modeling and Simulation, and Warfighter Support to the 100th Missile Defense Brigade.

Prior to joining MDA, Mr. Chai served as the Program Manager of the Joint Space Operations Center Mission System in the Department of the Air Force from 2010-2012. As the Program Manager, he led the ACAT I AM priority program, delivering joint Space Command and Control capabilities to the Space Enterprise.

Mr. Chai was IBM Corporation's Space and Cyberspace Account Manager from 2008-2010. As the Account Manager, he was responsible for bridging IBM Corporation's commercial expertise of delivering enterprise solutions, open standards, and commercial IT, and moving from stovepipes to Service Oriented Architecture to the Department of Defense Space and Cyberspace enterprise. He leveraged commercial knowledge of research, design, engineering, and development of space and cyberspace systems to solve critical Department of Defense issues.

Mr. Chai served as an active duty member of the United States Air Force from 1987 to 2008 in key program management, engineering, and operational positions in various organizations such as the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, Secretariat of the Air Force, Air Force Space Command, and Air Force Material Command. Key positions included: Program Manager for Combatant Commanders' Integrated C2 System, Program Manager for Shared Early Warning System, Program Manager for Mobile Consolidated Nuclear Command Centers, Program Element Monitor for Meteorological Satellite Systems, and Missile Officer in the Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center.

Mr. Chai is Acquisition Level III certified in Program Management and in System Planning, Research, Development, and Engineering. He is a graduate of the Air War College, Program Manager's Course, Advanced Program Management Course, and Executive Program Manager's Course, Defense Systems Management College. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University, a Bachelor of Science in Meteorology from Texas A&M University, a Master of Science in Systems Management from the University of Southern California, and a Master of Arts in Global Security Studies from Johns Hopkins University. He twice led his team to win the David Packard Excellence in Acquisition Award, the Department's highest acquisition award, for the Spacebased Kill Assessment (SKA) and the Hypersonic and Ballistic Tracking Space Sensor (HBTSS). Mr. Chai is a recipient of the 2021 Meritorious Senior Professional Presidential Rank Award.

Current as of May 2026.