

AIAA Greater Huntsville Section November Lecture with Eric Cole

*By Tracie Prater*



The AIAA Greater Huntsville section was honored to have Eric Cole of Missile Defense speak at our monthly professional lecture for November. Mr. Cole gave an overview of how Missile Defense Agency (MDA) uses CubeSats for technology demonstration and risk reduction. The talk focused on MDA's Nano Sat Testbed Initiative (NTI). Eric Cole has a BS in Mechanical Engineering with minors in math and English from Tennessee Technical University. He spent ten years with the US Navy (Dahlgren Division) supporting the Aegis weapon system, MK41 Vertical Launch System, and large deck ships topside weapons design. He was the team lead of the topside self-defense weapons designs for new Gerald R. Ford class aircraft carrier and LHA(R) America class amphibious ships. He has spent fourteen years with MDA working in the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense system and Multiple Kill Vehicle team and has served as a lead for new Target Class & Capabilities Requirements as the basis for new target developments. He was also a systems engineer supporting SM-3 Block IIB, Common Kill Vehicle, Multi-Object Kill Vehicle, and lead of the Kill Vehicle Modular Open Architecture. He was also involved with the development of MDA standard 008 (MDA-STD-008) and served as the MDA government lead over Hardware in the Loop development for testing the standard. Most recently, he is the lead for Nanosat Testbed Initiative work, overseeing four current satellite missions, and two other development missions planning to go to orbit.