

Donald H. (Don) Berchhoff
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Don Berchhoff is the Director of the Office of Science and Technology. He is responsible for science and technology infusion into the National Weather Service—including science and engineering planning, acquisition and refresh of critical technologies, and development of scientific techniques for NWS operations.

Don joined the NWS after a 24 year career in the United States Air Force. He has six years of “hands on” field forecasting experience, and is a specialist in East Coast and aviation weather, logging over 300 flying hours as an airborne meteorologist. He also has extensive experience in developing, re-engineering, and leading large operational weather centers as well as vast experience designing, advocating and managing large science and technology programs.

He has held management and senior level executive positions at all echelons and has extensive experience outside the field of meteorology. Don led the Afghanistan military policy and strategy office on the Joint Staff, assisting the Chairman and Secretary of Defense in advocating and programming for building and sustaining Afghan security forces and in developing Afghanistan military policy and strategy. Don also served a year in the Afghanistan Theater of Operations as the base commander at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. At Manas, Don was responsible for executing reception, staging and onward movement operations for military personnel deploying into and out of Afghanistan; providing logistics support to coalition aircraft conducting combat air refueling missions over Afghanistan; and leading community relation programs with local Kyrgyz towns and villages.

Don has a proven record of success developing and executing inter-agency programs with the Federal Aviation Administration, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Council, and the State Department. He has been heavily involved in advocating, developing, and managing science and technology policies and programs through the federal programming and budgeting process. He also has international executive leadership and diplomatic experience.

Don is a highly decorated veteran, including recipient of the Defense Superior Service Medal and Bronze Star. Don holds a Masters of Science degree in National Security Strategy from the National Defense University, a Masters of Arts degree in Procurement and Acquisition Management from Webster University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology (Honors) from the State University of New York.

A native of New York, Don resides in Silver Spring, Maryland with his wife Patricia and son Michael.