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Christopher B. Cool is sector vice president, Quality, Safety and Mission Assurance, for Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems, a premier provider of manned and unmanned aircraft, space systems and advanced technologies critical to our nation's security.

Cool's responsibilities include mission assurance, quality, affordability, continuous improvement, process excellence and safety assurance. His charter is to enable the sector to become a quality-focused, process-based culture by integrating quality, systems engineering, value stream management, safety assurance and risk management into a single integration capability.

His previous assignment was sector vice president, Quality Systems and Safety, at the former Integrated Systems sector. Prior to that, Cool performed in various capacities at the former Integrated Systems sector in affordability, quality, integration and knowledge management. He has served as vice president, Manufacturing Quality and Lean, and was the Defense and Aerospace Industry chair on MIT's Lean Aerospace Initiative from 2005-2006. He is a founding member and past chair of Northrop Grumman's Competitive Excellence council and the Corporate Quality council.

Cool joined Northrop Grumman in 1985 as an industrial engineering manager supporting the B-2 Program and was later named director of Strategic Planning on the program. Cool moved to the Commercial Aircraft Division as director of Division Integration and Program Management. He was named vice president, Manufacturing, Quality and Lean, for the Aerostructures business unit in 1998 and later held the same position at the Integrated Systems sector.

Prior to joining Northrop Grumman, Cool worked in industrial engineering for Rockwell International in Columbus, Ohio, and Palmdale, Calif., and at Boeing Commercial Aircraft in Everett, Wash.

Cool holds a Bachelor of Science in industrial engineering from Stanford University and a master's degree in business administration from UCLA.

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