

WALTER S. LAIRD, PE, CMI, CFI

FIELDS OF SPECIALTY

Walter holds designations under the following titles:

- Professional Engineer
- Naval Architect and Marine Engineer
- Mechanical Engineer
- Materials Engineer
- Merchant Mariner Credential
- Certified Marine Investigator
- Certified Fire Investigator
- Transportation Worker Credential

Because of Walter's vast experience and expertise under his designations, his fields of specialties include the following areas:

- Marine Accident Reconstruction;
- Boat Crash and Collision Analysis;
- Vessel and Equipment Failure Analysis;
- Fire Origin and Cause;
- Corrosion Failures;
- Mechanical Maintenance and Engineering;
- Marine Engineering;
- Mechanical Engineering, and
- Metallurgy and Materials Engineering.

EDUCATION

B.S. Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

M.S. Materials Science and Engineering, Johns Hopkins University

M.S. Ocean Systems and Shipbuilding Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Naval Nuclear Power School

Command and Staff Management Diploma, United States Naval War College

Naval Surface Warfare Officer's School

Naval Surface Ship Department Head School

Marine Accident Investigation; American Boat and Yacht Council

Boating Accident Investigation: National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

GPS Forensics; National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

Marine Accident Investigation; National Transportation Safety Board

Applied Marine Accident Investigation Certificate; Cranfield University

Diploma in Marine Accident Investigation (with Distinction); National Maritime Training Centre, North Kent College and Lloyd's Maritime Academy

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

- Registered Professional Mechanical Engineer in Alabama, District of Columbia, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.
- Certified Marine Investigator
- Cranfield University Certificate in Applied Marine Accident Investigation
- Diploma in Marine Accident Investigation
- Merchant Mariner Credential
- IAAI Certified Fire Investigator

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- NFPA Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator
- ABYC Certified Marine Technician
- ABYC Certified Technician in Marine Systems
- Transportation Worker Credential
- American Welding Society Certified Weld Inspector
- United States Sailing Association Offshore Safety Certificate

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

- National Society of Professional Engineers
- International Association of Marine Investigators
- International Association of Arson Investigators
- American Boat & Yacht Council

MAJOR MARINE EXPERIENCE

Retired Naval Officer and Lead Engineer for FORCON International in charge of Mid-Atlantic region for over 20 years conducting accident, personal injury, property damage, and product failure analysis and providing expert testimony in areas of noted expertise.

Provided engineering services for Reduced Ship's Maintenance programs for U.S. Navy including systems analysis and evaluation, material compatibility evaluation, corrosion and failure analysis, test program development. Development of advanced underwater hull maintenance tool for U.S. Navy.

Program engineer for U.S. Coast Guard vessel construction cost analysis.

Operations Officer, USS CONNOLLE (FF-1056). Developed ship's operational and training schedule. Directed operation and maintenance of all electronic Combat Information Systems. Developed ship's overhaul and maintenance programs. Watch stations included Tactical Action Officer, Officer of the Deck (underway), and Command Duty Officer.

Chief Engineer for Mechanical Systems, USS TEXAS (CGN-39). Directed overhaul of nuclear reactor, steam propulsion, and electrical plant mechanical systems during three-year complex overhaul. Managed division responsible for reactor plant chemistry, personnel monitoring and exposure control, reactor plant waste management, and radiological casualty response.

Machinery Division Officer, USS Texas (CGN-39). Directed the operation, maintenance, and repair of all mechanical systems related to nuclear reactors, ship's propulsion and power production. Watch stations included Engineering Officer of the Watch, Officer of the Deck (underway), and Combat Information Center Watch Officer.

U.S. Naval Academy Faculty. Taught Midshipmen mechanical and materials engineering courses. Materials laboratory director and manager.

Officer in Charge of Yard Patrol Craft. Directed Midshipmen seamanship training that included ship handling, Rules of the Road, and coastal navigation.

Officer in Charge of freshman sail training program. Directed Midshipmen sail training during Plebe summer.

Professional sailing and seamanship instructor at the Boston Sailing Center. Sailboat racing skipper and assistant coach for USNA Dinghy Racing Team.

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OTHER MAJOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Directed the maintenance of electrical and engineering infrastructure for Six Flags Great Adventure, the second largest amusement park in the US. Developed improved maintenance and corrosion control procedures; conducted engineering feasibility analyses for new ride installations and modifications.

Program engineer for multi-million dollar amusement ride development and installation at Universal Studios Florida and attractions at the MGM Grand Hotel Theme Park in Las Vegas. Conducted engineering development and reviews regarding materials and systems integration.

Materials research engineer for establishing new research programs that carried out contracted engineering testing and development of materials and processes that minimize corrosion. Managed entire research programs - metastable thin film development and testing, fastener protection systems evaluation and development; materials development and testing; welding analysis; and marine corrosion training programs.

AWARDS

National Defense Science and Engineering Fellow at Johns Hopkins University providing scholarship to attend The Johns Hopkins University and conduct materials applications research.

Graduate Fellowship funded by the U.S. Coast Guard at Massachusetts Institute of Technology for conducting research in oil spill response, containment, and clean up.