

Richard E. Tontarski, Jr.



Richard (Rick) E. Tontarski, Jr. is currently the Chief Scientist for the Defense Forensic Science Center (DFSC) serving in this position since January 2013. Before coming to this position, he was the Director of the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory (USACIL), Ft. Gillem, GA, having joined the USACIL in January 2007 as Chief, Forensic Analysis Division.

Before joining the USACIL, Mr. Tontarski was Chief, Fire Research Laboratory (FRL) at the U. S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). He was responsible for the development of the FRL concept and oversaw the creation of the Fire Research Center, serving as its Laboratory Chief from 1999 to 2007. The FRL is a one-of-a-kind forensic laboratory dedicated to forensic fire investigation, research and fire investigation education.

He has served as a fire debris and explosives chemist, and on-site technical expert at fire and explosion investigation scenes as an ATF National Response Team chemist. From 1988 to 1994 he served as Chief, ATF Forensic Science Laboratory. In 1996, he received his Senior Executive Service (SES) Certification from the Office of Personnel Management.

Mr. Tontarski serves on the *Forensic Science Policy & Management Journal* editorial board and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS). He recently completed work as a member of the NSTC Subcommittee on Forensic Science Standards, Practices and Protocols Interagency Working Group. He was a member of the *Journal of Forensic Sciences* editorial board for 18 years and has served as an AAFS Board Member.

In 1989, he founded the American Board of Criminalistics (ABC), the national certification board for forensic scientists. He is the past president of the INTERPOL 13<sup>th</sup> (2001) International Forensic Science Symposium.

Honors include the AAFS Criminalistics Section Paul L. Kirk Award and the Northeastern University Saferstein Lectureship in Forensic Science. His publications and presentation topics include fire debris and explosives analyses, management, quality assurance, education, battlefield forensics and homeland security.

Mr. Tontarski holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia and a Masters of Forensic Science from George Washington University.