

# Gary R. Ayers

Commander, USNR Executive Officer  
Crane Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center

Business Advisor, Indiana Small Business Development Center



In 1982, CDR Gary R. Ayers joined the U. S. Navy through the Officers Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island as a Direct Ascension Engineering Duty Officer. After receiving a Masters of Physics from Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California in 1987, CDR Ayers reported to the Engineering Duty Officer School located in Mare Island Naval Shipyard, California for training. Upon completion, he reported to Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion and Repair, Pascagoula, Mississippi where he completed repairs on the USS STARK (FFG 31), USS WISCONSIN (BB 64), and others.

In 1996, CDR Ayers resigned from active duty and transferred to the Naval Reserves. However, in October 1999, CDR Ayers was recalled to active duty and assumed duties as the Assistant Operational Officer (Surface), Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. After a successful tour in Hawaii, CDR Ayer's orders brought him to Indiana. CDR Ayers was posted at Crane Division, NSWC where he served as the Deputy Director for the Electronic Development Directorate and was later

appointed as the Executive Officer for NSWC Crane and as the AOIC for NSA Crane. CDR Ayers retired from the U.S. Navy in October 2005.

Following a short retirement, CDR Ayers was able to use the VA's Post 9-11 GI bill to pursue a doctoral program in Education through Oakland City University. While a doctoral student, Mr. Ayers was required to serve as an intern for two semesters. He joined the Cook Center for Entrepreneurship, an Indiana Small Business Development Center (ISBDC) host, as what he calls, "the world's oldest intern" where he was able to interact with ISBDC clients. Following completion of his internship, CDR Ayers joined the ISBDC as a Business Advisor where he provides small businesses with specialized support on technical issues such as obtaining and executing government contracts. He is also assigned to manage the Indiana Technical Assistance Program (INTAP) for the ISBDC covering the entire state of Indiana. He has been responsible for writing, executing and maintaining INTAP contracts for the state worth approximately \$320,000 to date.

CDR Ayers' decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal; the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two awards); and the Navy Achievement Medal (three awards). He is also a certified Acquisition Professional who holds a Level III SPRD&E certification.