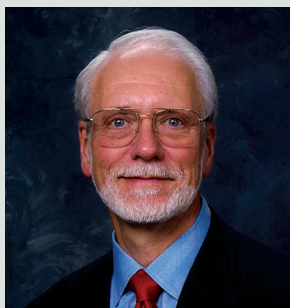


## REAL-WORLD METEOROLOGY

*A series of profiles celebrating a half-century of Certified Consulting Meteorologists*



**Who:** Gerald J. "Gerry" Mulvey

**What:** Senior systems engineer for Northrop Grumman Aerospace Company

**When:** CCM since 1997

**Where:** Los Angeles, California

**Why:** Increase recognition of his capabilities and afford an independent validation of the capability to apply meteorological principals and solve engineering problems.



**How:** Gerry Mulvey has provided in-house environmental consulting on a wide variety of aerospace and high-technology programs. He has successfully integrated his knowledge of meteorology with emerging engineering designs through classical aerospace systems engineering. This classical systems engineering approach is through trade studies, specification, and interface control document development as well as more general development process definition. He has been involved in many projects over a wide span of technologies, including weather radar data processing, airframe icing, weather data interface definitions for data processing systems, remote-sensing sea ice thickness measurement systems, satellite ground antenna siting, environmental satellite ground data processing algorithms, and humidity measurement in rocket launch pad blast ducts. Along the way, he has managed to satisfy his desire to teach by instructing for Colorado State University, San Francisco State University, Lockheed Martin, and Northrop Grumman, as well as for the International Society of Automation and the AMS.

**In His Own Words:** "The path to becoming a Certified Consulting Meteorologist was a long time starting. After working in the commercial sector for almost 20 years, the job prospects became uncertain. The question arose on how to distinguish yourself among those competing with you for jobs. In the commercial world, publications are not always encouraged or allowed, and you may not be able to tell others what you have done. Without a publication list, no reportable research projects, and not being allowed to describe your projects, how do you describe your capability/track record? In short, it is difficult. I realized the best alternative was to be recognized by a state licensing board or professional organization through a certification program. The next step was choosing which certification best suits the meteorological field. Having worked as a systems engineer for aerospace companies employing my meteorological background to solve engineering problems, it boiled down to a system engineering certification or a consulting meteorologist certification. It had to be a rigorous program that would testify to education/training, experience, problem solving ability, and ethics.

"I selected the CCM as the best route, feeling that the program was, and still is, the most rigorous certification program, both to achieve the certification and to maintain it through continuing professional development. Besides the purple badge of identification as a CCM at the Annual Meeting, the CCM provides a level of recognition of both achievement and sustained currency in the state of the art for meteorology. Was it worth it? The short answer is yes. CCM certification has given me the ability to internally market myself as a meteorologist with real-world experience, high ethical standards, and a dedication to maintaining technical expertise as tested and reviewed by my peers. It added the designation of subject matter expert in weather to my aerospace system engineer record. It may seem that working for major aerospace corporations has nothing to do with consulting, but a system engineer changes projects often. You are interviewing frequently for a new job and presenting your credentials to another group. The recognition in the commercial sector is slow in coming, but the recognition in the meteorological community is significant. In particular, the ability to identify experts, network with them, and work with them to solve problems is significant. The process of vetting a consultant or selecting a teammate is simplified with the CCM after the name, and I would encourage all meteorologists to explore the AMS CCM program and see if it is right for you."

For more information on the Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM) Program, please visit the AMS Web site at [www.ametsoc.org/amscert/index.html](http://www.ametsoc.org/amscert/index.html).