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COL Robert "Clay" McVay is Deputy Director, at the Army Applications Laborator where he leads the day-to-day operations of the Lab. He manages a diverse team of military, science, tech, and academic professionals to harness real innovation and accelerate technology into the hands of Soldiers. He oversees AAL's budget, events, and special initiatives; manages talent; and ensures the Lab has the resources it needs to succeed.

With just over 22 years in the Army, Clay has deployed to Kosovo in support of peacekeeping operations, and twice in support of combat operations to Iraq. Most recently he completed a fellowship at the University of Texas at Austin with the Clements Center for National Security. Prior to that, he was in the Army Futures Command headquarters and on the Army staff where he helped develop the Army's budget for its major transformative capabilities including Army modernization priorities such as long-range precision fires, next-generation combat vehicles, future vertical lift, and more.

Clay has both bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering. He taught mechanical engineering courses at the United States Military Academy at West Point. His research was focused on human-borne exoskeleton devices and other robotics.