On July 1, 1969, Dr. R. E. Gibson retired as Director of the Applied Physics Laboratory, after serving with distinction as head of the Laboratory for 22 years. He was succeeded by Dr. A. Kossiakoff, who had been Deputy Director since 1966. As Director Emeritus, with offices in the main Laboratory building in Howard County, Dr. Gibson continues to participate actively in the affairs of the Laboratory. In addition, he has accepted an appointment as Professor of Biomedical Engineering at The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Dr. Gibson graduated from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, where he received the B.Sc. (summa cum laude) and his Ph.D. in chemistry in 1924. In the summer of that year, Dr. Gibson came to the United States to join the staff of the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, a position he held until 1946, except for a five-year period when he was on leave of absence to engage in wartime research and development. He joined the staff of the Applied Physics Laboratory in 1946, was appointed Acting Director in July 1947, and became Director in April 1948. Under Dr. Gibson's leadership, the Laboratory has grown into one of the nation's leading research and development institutions.