



**WID**  
SCHOLAR

2023 Celebration  
of Women In  
Defense Scholars





# Encouraging National Security & Defense Careers

Through the WID Scholar program, Women In Defense encourages women to pursue careers supporting U.S. national security with a focus on defense or foreign policy.

Since its establishment in 1988, the WID Scholar program, previously HORIZONS, has awarded more than \$1 million to more than 200 recipients pursuing degrees ranging from law to engineering to math to public policy. Awards are based on academic achievement, participation in defense and national security activities, field of study, work experience, statements of

interest, recommendations, and financial need. Recipients must report periodically on the impact of the awards on their personal and professional lives.

The National Defense Industrial Association, Women In Defense, and their sponsors are proud to invest in high-performing women to increase diversity and innovation in government, academia, and the defense industrial workforce.

[WOMENINDEFENSE.NET/WIDSCHOLAR](https://womenindefense.net/widscholar)

**MONTGOMERY SMITH**

She has exhibited patient leadership in training Army researchers on crystallization methodology and would clearly step into any DoD lab upon graduation as a lead researcher...Montgomery's continued involvement within the energetics community should be of the highest priority to DoD labs and the Women In Defense Scholarship would be a great way to encourage her continued engagement with the DoD.

—  
Eric D. Gauthier, PhD  
Chemical Engineer, U.S. Army, Explosives Research Branch

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# AGENDA

**TUESDAY JUNE 13, 2023**

5:00 – 6:30 pm

## WID SCHOLAR CELEBRATION EVENT REGISTRATION

THE HELIX, BOOZ ALLEN'S CENTER FOR INNOVATION,  
901 15TH ST NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20005

5:00 – 5:30 pm

## NETWORKING

5:30 – 5:40 pm

**Booz  
Allen.**

## WELCOME

Col Rachel McCaffrey, USAF (Ret)  
Executive Director, Women In Defense

The Hon. Michael Bayer  
President, Dumbarton Strategies, LLC

Judi Dotson  
President, Global Defense Sector, Booz Allen Hamilton

5:40 – 6:45 pm

## INTRODUCTION OF WID SCHOLARS

The Hon. David L. Norquist  
President & CEO, NDIA

6:45 – 6:50 pm

 **ANDURIL**

## CLOSING REMARKS

Megan Milam  
Senior VP of Government Relations,  
Anduril Industries

6:50 – 7:15 pm

## NETWORKING

7:15 – 9:00 pm

## WID SCHOLAR PIZZA DINNER

THE HELIX, BOOZ ALLEN'S CENTER  
FOR INNOVATION, 901 15TH ST NW,  
WASHINGTON, DC

“

### MICHAELA HEMMING

Not only did she meet the moment and break records for NASA, but she also added to the test project by making recommendations for test conditions and post-test observations. Her contributions will benefit NASA and the scientific community for decades to come.

—  
Thomas W. Teasley  
ER13 Combustion Development,  
NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

”

“

### JISELLE THORNBY

The work Jiselle performs is essential to restoring our technological advantage in any number of munitions, from small arms rounds to solid rocket motors...The reward for success in her project is great: among other benefits, additively manufactured energetic materials offer superior burn profiles and detonation characteristics that will enable munitions to travel farther and faster than existing ordnance, and to deliver more energy on target...Jiselle has produced a manuscript that is currently being withheld from publication by her sponsor, the U.S. Army Research Lab. The Army considers the work sufficiently sensitive and critical to our defense that they have approved it only for limited release and have given preliminary feedback that it should be published in the JANNAF journal (Journal of the Army, Navy, NASA, and Air Force). This classified, peer-reviewed journal is where the most sensitive defense-focused work is disseminated.

—  
Stephen P. Beaudoin  
Professor, Director, Purdue Energetics  
Research Center (PERC)

”



# Booz Allen®

## YOUR MISSION DRIVES OUR MISSION

Booz Allen's commitment to help women move to the forefront of defense innovation is the reason we've been a Women in Defense (WID) leader and advocate for 20 years. We're first to the future—moving missions forward to realize our purpose: Empower People to Change the World®.

See our ideas in action.

Visit [BoozAllen.com](https://www.BoozAllen.com)

8:00 – 8:30 am

## WID SCHOLAR WORKSHOP REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

THE HELIX, BOOZ ALLEN'S CENTER FOR INNOVATION, 901 15TH ST NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20005

8:00 – 8:15 am



## WELCOME AND WID SCHOLAR INTRODUCTIONS

Col Rachel McCaffrey, USAF (Ret)  
Executive Director, Women In Defense

Tricia Ward  
Principal Director, Booz Allen Hamilton

8:15 – 8:30 am

## BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON EXECUTIVE WELCOME

8:30 – 9:05 am



## INTRODUCTION TO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Debbie De La O  
Vice President, Army and Mission Partners Division, Leidos Defense

9:05 – 9:35 am

## RESUME WORKSHOP

Gretchen Larsen Idsinga  
Past Chair, WID National Council

9:35 – 9:45 am

## BREAK

9:45 – 10:30 am

## TOUR OF HELIX, BOOZ ALLEN'S CENTER FOR INNOVATION FACILITY

10:30 – 11:00 am

## TARGETING YOUR NEXT OPPORTUNITY

Col Rachel McCaffrey, USAF (Ret)  
Executive Director, Women In Defense

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

## NETWORKING LUNCH

12:00 – 3:05 pm

## CLIFTON STRENGTHS OVERVIEW

Fiona Grant  
FJ Grant Coaching & Consulting



### STEPHANIE ANDRESS

To date, Ms. Andress' efforts with my team have yielded three journal papers and an additional three drafts are currently in preparation. This is one of the highest publication rates that I have seen from an experimental researcher at Purdue, and it has been accomplished while maintaining high standards of quality...I believe Ms. Andress is an exceptional student - easily within the top five experimentalists that I've seen in my research career (including more than a decade at Purdue University) - with a promising future.

—  
Jeffrey F. (Jeff) Rhoads

Executive Director, Purdue  
Institute for National Security;  
Professor, School of Mechanical  
Engineering, Purdue University



**CLOSING REMARKS****Cathy Meyn**

Immediate Past Chair, WID National Council

NDIA has a policy of strict compliance with federal and state antitrust laws. The antitrust laws prohibit competitors from engaging in actions that could result in an unreasonable restraint of trade. Consequently, NDIA members must avoid discussing certain topics when they are together at formal association membership, board, committee, and other meetings and in informal contacts with other industry members: prices, fees, rates, profit margins, or other terms or conditions of sale (including allowances, credit terms, and warranties); allocation of markets or customers or division of territories; or refusals to deal with or boycotts of suppliers, customers or other third parties, or topics that may lead participants not to deal with a particular supplier, customer or third party.

# Scholarship Awardees

**STEPHANIE ANDRESS**

*Mechanical Engineering*  
Purdue University

Stephanie Andress completed a B.S. and M.S. at

Purdue University in mechanical engineering and began a Ph.D. in the same program in 2022. Her research interests revolve around

material characterization and fabrication with a focus on additively manufactured energetic materials. Specifically, her work involves characterizing the mechanical properties of these materials to better understand their behavior under different conditions while also working to make the

research and production process safer and more environmentally friendly. With funding from SERDP and DEVCOM-ARL, she has been able to pursue her research goals while contributing to the advancement of defense research.

**PAIGE BERG**

*Aerospace Systems Engineering*  
University of Alabama, Huntsville

Paige Berg received her bachelor's degree in

aerospace engineering from Missouri University of Science and Technology. She completed her master's degree in aerospace systems engineering at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) before beginning her PhD in the same program. As a graduate research assistant, Paige has led ground testing for various small scale solid and liquid propulsion systems at the UAH Propulsion

Research Center. Her research focus is characterizing different fuels for solid fuel ramjets by determining regression rates and

combustion products. WID Tennessee Valley Chapter awarded Paige scholarships in Academic Years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

**PAIGE BERG**

She is now working on her PhD on a new DoD hypersonics research program that uses solid fuels to feed rotating detonation engines for hypersonic applications... Her unique combination of skills will undoubtedly enable her to become a leader in a defense-related industry... She has already made significant contributions in our DoD-sponsored ramjet fuel and rotating detonation engine programs, and has an excellent aptitude for research, collaboration, and leadership.

—  
**Robert A. Frederick, Jr.**

Director, UAH Propulsion Research Center; Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, The University of Alabama in Huntsville







## NOOPUR BHATT

*Computer Science*  
Columbia University

Noopur Bhatt is a first-year computer

science master's student at Columbia University, specializing in security with a clear objective of obtaining her Ph.D. She recently completed her bachelor's degree in computer science at Georgia Tech with highest honors. Her interest lies in pursuing research at the intersection of security, software engineering, and machine learning. Recognizing the significance of technology in national security, Noopur is determined to make valuable contributions in this field. Moreover, she possesses an entrepreneurial mindset, aiming to leverage her expertise and innovative ideas to create solutions with real-world impact.



## NOOPUR BHATT

During her internship, she worked on projects supporting the U.S. Navy in an agile research and development environment. She demonstrated outstanding performance in programming and research relating to machine learning applications for electronic warfare systems.

—  
**Paul Coen**

Scientist – Advanced Concept Group, Electromagnetic Warfare S&T Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division (NSWC Crane)



## KERRY CANDLEN

Because of Kerry's outstanding performance, the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM) has recently recruited Kerry as an ORISE fellow to work on several MRE packaging related projects...Kerry is also the first leading author of a publication about the biodegradation of a monolayer mulch film made of poly(lactic acid)/polybutylene adipate terephthalate and soy waste, which has been published in the journal of *Materials Today*... she will be a wonderful steward... as she continues to contribute to the Plastics Engineering field as an industrious, meticulous, and motivated student and future leader in this discipline.

—  
**Wan-Ting Chen, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor, Department of Plastic Engineering, Francis College of Engineering, University of Massachusetts Lowell



## KERRY CANDLEN

*Plastics Engineering*  
University of Massachusetts, Lowell

Kerry Candlen is a PhD candidate in plastics

engineering at the University of Massachusetts Lowell and an Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) participant at The Combat Capabilities Development Command Soldier Center (DEVCOM SC) in Natick, MA. Her work largely

focuses on sustainable solutions for the Meal, Ready-to-Eat (MRE) ration packaging, including biodegradable, biobased, recycled, and edible film materials research, as well as reduced packaging efforts. Additional research includes studying the interaction between microplastics and aquatic environments to better understand their fate with the goal of better protecting global water sources.



## MICHAELA HEMMING

*Aerospace Systems Engineering*  
University of Alabama, Huntsville

Michaela Hemming is a PhD candidate in

aerospace systems engineering at The University of Alabama in Huntsville under the advisement of Dr. Gabe Xu in the Plasma and Electrodynamics Research Lab. She is a NASA Space Technology Graduate Opportunities (NSTGRO)

Fellow conducting research on injector performance and recovery of multiphase propellants in a rotating detonation rocket engine (RDRE). She is also the Technical Development Chair for the national chapter of Women in Aeronautics and Astronautics and serves on the Outreach Committee for her local Greater Huntsville Section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.





# The power to do great things

Leidos is proud to partner with Women In Defense and support the engaging women across national security fields, advancing their careers, and empowering all to lead change.

Your contributions are vital to organizations and agencies working to protect what's most important, and we can't wait to see what you do next.

[leidos.com/careers](https://leidos.com/careers)



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## ALEXIA HERNANDEZ

She is a strong, resourceful, talented professional who is exactly the type of individual we need to join the defense, intelligence, and national security workforce.

—

**Moneer Helu, Ph.D.**  
Division of Research, University of Maryland, College Park



## ALEXIA HERNANDEZ

*Geospatial Information Sciences*  
University of Maryland, College Park

Alexia Hernandez is currently pursuing a master's degree

in Geospatial Information Sciences (GIS) from the University of Maryland (UMD) while working as a Graduate Research Assistant at UMD's Applied Research Laboratory for Intelligence and Security (ARLIS). She graduated from UMD with

a bachelor's degree in criminology and criminal justice and two minors in technology entrepreneurship and GIS. As an undergraduate, she completed internships at ARLIS (supporting the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency), the Department of Justice, and NASA through their DEVELOP National Program. This summer, she will join Esri as a Solution Engineer intern to continue expanding her geospatial analysis skills.



## MONTGOMERY SMITH

*Chemical Engineering*  
Purdue University



Montgomery Smith is a third-year PhD candidate in

chemical engineering at Purdue University. Montgomery has worked in partnership

with DARPA, Leidos, BAE Systems, Purdue Energetics Research Center (PERC), and the U.S. Army throughout her doctoral career, identifying industry-wide challenges in energetics manufacturing. As a result,

she has spent three years researching the crystallization process control and design of energetic materials manufacturing to help improve efficiency, accuracy, and serve her country through science and engineering.

## JISELLE THORNBY

*Chemical Engineering*  
Purdue University



Jiselle Thornby is a rising fourth-year doctoral student in

Chemical Engineering at Purdue in West Lafayette, IN. Funded by DEVCOM-ARL, she studies the additive manufacturing (3D-printing) of energetic materials, especially next-generation gun propellant systems, for defense and national security applications. Thornby's work extends into the synthesis, deposition, combustion, and

functionality of printable energetic materials. She has international research experience (Leeds, England) and is working toward her fourth journal publication. Jiselle is a first-generation student from Devils Lake, ND. She holds two chemical engineering degrees, B.S. (summa cum laude) and M.S., from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.

## JESSE TOBIN

*Materials Engineering and Science*  
South Dakota School of Mines



Jesse Tobin is an energetics formulator at the Naval Air

Warfare Center Weapons Division - China Lake. Jesse earned her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Reed College in 2009, and

her master's degree in explosives engineering from New Mexico Tech in 2014. She has worked in R&D at China Lake for nearly nine years, primarily focusing on developing state-of-the-art energetic formulations. In August 2023, she will attend South Dakota School of Mines

in the Materials Engineering and Science PhD program. The focus of her research will be on the role of surface chemistry in developing new materials.



## JESSE TOBIN

At the professional meetings there are always multiple groups that reference Jesse and interactions that they have had with her for providing materials and input to their research studies. This level of professional respect is notable because it spans groups and is obvious the level of impact that Jesse has on others...Jesse is a very capable researcher who is engaged and involved in the energetic materials community with work that significantly impacts the Department of Defense daily and will continue to do so as she continues in her career and increases her education opportunities through this Scholarship.

—

**Michael J. Hargather, PhD**  
Professor of Mechanical Engineering,  
New Mexico Tech





# CONGRATULATIONS

## WID SCHOLAR AWARD WINNERS



Maximus honors today's recipients and commends Women In Defense for 35 years of supporting women in achieving careers in national security.

# maximus

Learn about Maximus in the defense community



# Strategic Partner Descriptions

## Booz Allen



Booz Allen congratulates WID Scholars. As a defense partner trusted to transform missions with tomorrow's technologies, Booz Allen Hamilton is honored to be a long-standing Women in Defense (WID) Gold Strategic Partner and the host of this annual scholarship celebration. Our commitment to help women move to the forefront of defense innovation is the reason we've been a WID leader and advocate for 20 years. Providing paths to professional growth is one way we accelerate our nation's most critical defense, civil, and national security priorities. We lead, invest, and invent where it's needed most—at the forefront of complex missions. Combining more than 100 years of strategic consulting expertise with the perspectives of diverse talent, we ensure results by integrating emerging technology with an enduring focus on our clients. We're first to the future—moving missions forward to realize our purpose: Empower People to Change the World®.

## leidos



Leidos is a Fortune 500® technology, engineering, and science solutions and services leader working to solve the world's toughest challenges in the defense, intelligence, civil, and health markets. The company's 45,000 employees support vital missions for government and commercial customers. Headquartered in Reston, Virginia, Leidos reported annual revenues of approximately \$14.4 billion for the fiscal year ended December 30, 2022. For more information, visit [www.Leidos.com](http://www.Leidos.com)

## ANDURIL



Anduril Industries is a defense technology company with a mission to transform U.S. and allied military capabilities with advanced technology. By bringing the expertise, technology, and business model of the 21st century's most innovative companies to the defense industry, Anduril is changing how military systems are designed, built, and sold. Anduril's family of systems is powered by Lattice OS, an AI-powered operating system that turns thousands of data streams into a realtime, 3D command and control center. As the world enters an era of strategic competition, Anduril is committed to bringing cutting-edge AI, computer vision, sensor fusion and networking technology to the military in months, not years. For more information, visit [www.anduril.com](http://www.anduril.com).

## 



STI is an SBA-certified Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB), supporting the Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for more than 35 years and helping government and commercial clients maximize resources and minimize costs. As a Military Health System (MHS) global partner, STI provides state-of-the art, flexible, scalable, interoperable solutions and vast subject matter expertise in finance, acquisition, and technology to improve efficiency and standardize enterprise processes and procedures. STI empowers MHS senior leaders with actionable information to make sound decisions in support of strategic priorities such as the Quadruple Aim:

increased readiness, better care, better health, and lower costs. STI is a true force multiplier by developing efficiencies and freeing critical resources to fund modernization efforts that shape global healthcare delivery. STI's expanded services include health information management, financial consulting and analysis, and related training and staffing for military healthcare facilities around the world. We provide efficiencies for Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) in every global region, including Defense Health Agency and Army MTFs in the United States, Navy MTFs from Florida to Japan, and Air Force MTFs worldwide. To learn more about the talent and technologies that will move your mission ahead, visit [stic2.com](http://stic2.com).

## BAE SYSTEMS



BAE Systems, Inc. delivers a full range of products and services for air, land, and naval forces, as well as advanced electronics, security, information technology solutions, and customer support services. We are conscious of the need for all employees to see themselves reflected at every level of the company and know that in order to unlock the full potential of our workforce, everyone must feel confident being their best, most sincere self. BAE Systems provides opportunities to do meaningful work in an environment where everyone can learn, grow and belong.





## TRAINING & SIMULATION INDUSTRY SYMPOSIUM (TSIS) 2023

June 21 – 22, 2023 | Orlando, FL



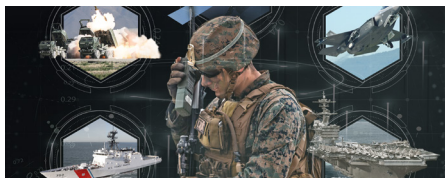
## 2023 UNDERSEA WARFARE FALL CONFERENCE

September 18 – 20\*, 2023 | Groton, CT



## PRECISION STRIKE TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM (PSTS-23)

October 17 – 19, 2023 | Laurel, MD



## 2023 JADC2: ALL DOMAIN WARFARE SYMPOSIUM

July 18 – 19, 2023 | Alexandria, VA



## FUZE/FFC/DEMIL THREE CONFERENCES. ONE LOCATION.

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66th Annual Fuze Conference  
Future Force Capabilities Conference & Exhibition  
23rd Global Demilitarization Symposium & Exhibition

September 25 – 28, 2023 • Huntsville, AL



## 34<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NDIA SO/LIC SYMPOSIUM

October 30 – 31, 2023 | Washington, DC



## 2023 CBRN DEFENSE CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

July 24 – 26, 2023 | Baltimore, MD



## 2023 AIRCRAFT SURVIVABILITY SYMPOSIUM

October 31 – November 2, 2023\* | Monterey, CA



## 2023 SPACE WARFIGHTING FORUM

August 17 – 18\*\*, 2023 | Colorado Springs, CO



## 2023 WID NATIONAL CONFERENCE

September 26, 2023 | Arlington, VA



## I/ITSEC 2023

November 27 – December 1, 2023 | Orlando, FL



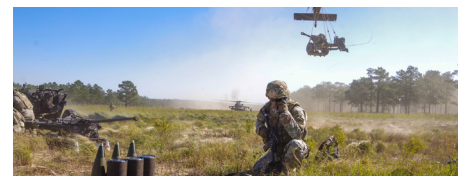
## EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR DEFENSE CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

August 28 – 30, 2023 | Washington, DC



## 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SYSTEMS & MISSION ENGINEERING CONFERENCE

October 16 – 19, 2023 | Norfolk, VA



## 2024 MUNITIONS EXECUTIVE SUMMIT

March 19 – 20, 2024 | Norfolk, VA

\*All Classified | \*\*Partially Classified



# Speaker Biographies



## THE HON. MICHAEL BAYER

*President of Dumbarton Strategies, LLC*

As President of Dumbarton Strategies, LLC., Michael has often been

listed as one of the most influential people in national security. He provides strategic advice, informed by deep technical and geopolitical context, to government and corporate leaders in the United States and Europe on matters of national security, aerospace, and energy.

He also serves as director on the Boards of Beretta Holdings, Codemettle, Entact, Narda-MITEQ, and NorthStar Group Services. His past director positions include Sprint Energy Services, API Tech, Airborne Tactical Advantage Company, NRCG, DOSS Aviation, EG&G, Duratek, Athena, Stratos Global, Dyncorp International, Waste Control Specialists, BEI Sensors, Siga Technologies, and Vangent Holding Corp.

Leaders at the highest levels of government have frequently called upon Michael for his thoughtful analysis and sound advice. In 2019, Bayer led the Cybersecurity Readiness Review which illuminated

organizational and management gaps that exposed the Navy's and other Military Services' most crucial capabilities to cyber threats. In 2018, after the tragic loss of life in the collisions of U.S.S. Fitzgerald and later, the U.S.S. McCain, Bayer led the Navy's Strategic Readiness Review, which identified the leadership and institutional changes necessary to prevent future tragedies. In 2001, following the terrorists attacks of 9/11, Secretary Donald Rumsfeld asked Bayer and Noble Prize winner Joshua Lederberg to lead a classified investigation named "Red Nuff" to identify future vectors of global terrorism. In 1991, after the downing of PanAm Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, President Bush asked Michael to lead the staff of a Congressionally created Commission to investigate causality. The findings of that report fundamentally changed the Nation's and the Industry's approach to aviation security and counterterrorism. In 1986, President Ronald Reagan appointed Michael as the Assistant to the Secretary of Energy for Legislative Affairs, later as the Associate Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

Bayer has decades of service on government advisory boards. He was a long-serving member of the Defense Science Board, which advises the Department on a wide-range of science and technology matters. Bayer also chaired the Defense Business Board three different times during its existence. He has also served on the Chief of Naval Operations Executive Panel, the Business Executives for National Security Advisory Board, the Sandia Laboratory's National Security Advisory Panel, the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Military Academy, the Army Science Board (Chairman), the Naval War College Board of Visitors, the Secretary of the Air Force's Advisory Group (Chairman), the Naval Post Graduate School Board of Visitors, the Nuclear Weapons External Advisory Panel, and the U.S. European Command Senior Advisory Group. He has served every Secretary of Defense from Bill Perry to Mark Esper. They have recognized Michael's contributions with DoD's highest civilian awards: four Defense Distinguished Service Medals, two Navy Distinguished Service Medals, and one Army Distinguished Service Medal.



## DEBBIE DE LA O

*Vice President and Division Manager, Leidos Defense*

Debbie De La O is the Vice President for the Army and Mission Partners

Division within Leidos Defense. In this role, De La O manages the Enterprise IT and Cyber portfolio and leads programs across the Army and Mission Partners. She provides management and technical oversight of these programs and leads a team of professionals that deliver Enterprise IT to our customers. As a P&L leader, she is responsible for strategy, execution, and growth of the business.

Prior to this position, Debbie managed a broad range of portfolios delivering logistics, training, and software to both the Air Force and Army. As a portfolio manager, she had oversight of the Army's Warfighter Readiness program which delivered fielding and modernization for new and existing communication technology. Debbie and her teams delivered software support to the Air Force to modernize and sustain critical logistics applications. Today, her teams are supporting the Army's defensive cyber operations and delivering a broad range of Enterprise IT services.

Debbie is on the National Council for Women In Defense. She is actively involved in supporting STEM initiatives and has led Leidos sponsorship and engagement in local science fairs. She actively supports the San Antonio Food Bank and is a co-founder of CARES, a Leidos internal team that provides emotional support to employees dealing with cancer.

Debbie holds a bachelor's degree in Business from St. Mary's University and an MBA from the University of Texas at San Antonio.



## JUDI DOTSON

*President, Global Defense Sector, Booz Allen Hamilton*

Judi Dotson, Booz Allen Hamilton's Global Defense Sector President,

serves on the firm's leadership team, leads the largest sector representing half of annual revenue, and drives the most critical missions impacting our defense clients, soldiers, and warfighters.

Her tenure at the firm spanning over three decades, Dotson has supported clients across the range of federal agencies, both

defense and civil. She took the helm of the Global Defense Sector (GDS) in 2022, leveraging her deep defense mission expertise to bring innovative technical solutions to the Department of Defense (DoD).

Dotson provides strategic leadership across the five major markets that comprise the firm's GDS business: Aerospace, Army, Digital Battlespace, Joint Combatant Commands (JCC), and Navy & Marine Corps. Together with the GDS Client Service Officers, Dotson strengthens the firm's position at the intersection of long-standing and deep

mission understanding with the infusion of emerging technology for defense.

As one of Washington Exec's Top 25 Execs to Watch in 2021, Judi focuses on the main interests of the firm in supporting our clients: keeping the workforce equipped with the technical skills and solutions that help clients stay ahead of our adversaries.

Judi is a technical integrator; she holds a B.S. in computer science from the University of Maryland.



## FIONA GRANT

*FJ Grant Coaching & Consulting*

Fiona Grant excels in helping others create momentum and explore new

perspectives. After a successful 25-year human resources career at Accenture and Lockheed Martin, she is now a leadership coach and organization development consultant. As an HR Director supporting

global technology consulting groups, Grant's career spanned recruitment, talent management and employee engagement in addition to leading innovative inclusion and diversity initiatives. Grant's unique combination of humor, warmth, curiosity and business acumen made her a valued and trusted adviser to employees.

At Accenture, Grant created and facilitated inclusion and leadership development

programs for a variety of audiences including high potential managers, women and minority executives. She builds quick rapport and is adept at creating safe and open environments that allow for individual and organizational change.

Grant lived in the UK, France, Germany and Tunisia before moving to the U.S. in 1996.



## GRETCHEN LARSEN IDSINGA

*Chair Emeritus, National Council, Women In Defense*

Gretchen Larsen Idsinga is a highly analytic, data-driven leader with corporate-

wide functional understanding and risk management perspective gained as a Growth and P&L executive across aerospace, technology, and professional services firms. Repeatedly sought out to renovate strategies, infrastructure, and performance, the unique crossover scope of her career powers integrative thinking and dot-connecting on diverse, complex issues. Female military veterans are only half of one percent of the US population, with Idsinga in the even smaller subset to have leveraged those best practices in the C-suite.

Experienced in companies selling to both government and commercial clients, she adeptly translates for firms targeting entrée to the US Federal market. She is currently completing her juris doctor at UDC Law.

Idsinga is an accredited Governance Fellow by the National Association of Corporate Directors and a member of Women Corporate Directors. Her current roles include the Board of the National Defense Industrial Association which represents more than 1,850 corporate and 66,000 individual, and the Advisory Council of STEM for Her, which brings educational programs to junior and high school girls. Previously Chair of the National Council for Women In Defense, she also spent six years as strategic oversight and sounding board on direction and growth

for the CEO and President of a privately held business.

A graduate of the US Air Force Academy, Idsinga holds two master's degrees and an advanced executive certificate from the MIT Sloan School of Management. Now living in Virginia, her global perspective comes from a career spanning the US, Europe, and Asia. Her combined experiences plus a passion for furthering education led her to establish and lead a non-profit foundation that supplies computers and internet connectivity to a remote school in eastern Zambia.



## RACHEL A. MCCAFFREY, COLONEL, USAF (RET)

*Senior Vice President for Membership & Chapters, NDIA, Executive Director of Women In Defense*

Rachel A. McCaffrey, Colonel, USAF (Ret) is the Senior Vice President

for Membership and Chapters for the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) and the Executive Director of Women In Defense. She came to NDIA and WID after more than 28 years in the Air Force. In her last assignment, she led an Air Staff Division responsible for planning and programming Command and Control and Global Intelligence, Surveillance and

Reconnaissance (ISR). Prior to her Air Staff tour, McCaffrey served as the Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Air Command at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. During her NATO tour, Rachel led the ISR Division for Operation UNIFIED PROTECTOR where she oversaw more than 70 personnel who planned, executed and evaluated ISR operations. McCaffrey also commanded the 9th Intelligence Squadron at Beale AFB and is a fully qualified Joint Specialty Officer, serving on the Joint Staff in the Intelligence Directorate. A native New

Englander, McCaffrey grew up in Central Massachusetts. In 1988 she graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a Bachelor of the Arts in English, and received her commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps. She earned her master's degree in english language and literature from the University of Maryland, College Park. Rachel also attended the Intelligence Weapons Instructor Course, Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and Army War College.



## CATHY MEYN

*Program Director Northrop Grumman; Immediate Past Chair, Women In Defense, National Council*

Cathy Meyn is the immediate past Chair of the Women In Defense National

Council. Meyn enjoyed a distinguished career as a software engineer, culminating as the Corporate Programs Director at Northrop Grumman where she developed programs and processes for establishing and maintaining a focus on program effectiveness as a major corporate priority. Her responsibilities included assessing Northrop Grumman's program management procedures, identifying best practices and recommending enterprise level improvement.

Prior to joining Northrop Grumman, Meyn's career included leading advanced product

development programs, producing winning results in product development, technical and program management, and marketing in chaotic, fast-growth defense and commercial companies.

Meyn currently serves as a volunteer leader in several organizations. As Immediate Past Chair of the Women In Defense National Council, Cathy contributes to organizing the National Conference, supporting local chapters and identifying funding sources and exceptional speakers and contributors for WID events. As Collaboration Chair of the Mentoring Facilitation Working Group for the Society of Women Engineers, Meyn builds the society level infrastructure to provide resources and support to mentoring groups around the world. She developed and

presented workshops on creating mentoring groups, finding mentors, and led mentoring roundtables around the country. As Co-Chair of Braver Angels San Diego Alliance, she identifies, coordinates, and leads workshops and other events to promote political depolarization.

Meyn earned bachelor's degrees in Computer Science and Psychology from San Diego State University. Her continuing education includes Program Management certification from San Diego State University and the Executive Program for Scientists and Engineers from University of California, San Diego.



## MEGAN MILAM

*Senior Vice President, Government Relations, Anduril Industries*

Megan Milam is the Senior Vice President, Government Relations

for Anduril Industries. In this role, she is responsible for developing and implementing Anduril's government affairs strategy with the legislative and executive branches. Milam has held multiple roles in the executive and legislative branches of government. She was the Deputy Comptroller (Budget and Appropriations Affairs) at the Department

of Defense, where she served as the senior advisor to the Secretary of Defense and DoD senior leadership on congressional appropriations matters and the Department's lead interface with the congressional appropriations committees. She was most recently the Director of the Office of Policy and Strategic Planning at Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).

Previously, Milam served as Professional Staff Member for the House Appropriations

Committee, Subcommittee on Defense, responsible for overseeing funding and policies related to the Department of Defense and Intelligence Community. She was previously the Appropriations Associate for Congressman Mike Simpson (ID-02). Milam received her M.S. from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland and her B.A. from Princeton University. She also serves on the NDIA Board of Directors.





## THE HON. DAVID L. NORQUIST

*President & Chief Executive Officer of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA)*

The Hon. David L. Norquist is President and Chief Executive Officer of the

National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA). He joined NDIA on May 1, 2022 bringing with him more than 30 years of public and private sector experience in national security and federal financial management. Norquist previously served as the 34th Deputy Secretary of Defense from 2019 to 2021 and was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Department of Defense (DoD), including managing the Pentagon's budget and personnel. He led reforms in DoD business processes and realigned investments toward the challenges of multi-domain warfare. At the request of the Biden Administration, Norquist served as Acting Secretary of Defense and

continued as Deputy Secretary until the Senate confirmed Secretary Lloyd Austin and Deputy Secretary Kathleen Hicks. From 2017 until 2019 as the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and Chief Financial Officer, he supported the National Defense Strategy (NDS) through the development and execution of the DoD's annual budget of more than \$680 billion. Norquist strengthened accountability to the taxpayer by implementing DoD's first department-wide financial statement audit.

Norquist began his career in 1989 as a Presidential Management Fellow supporting Army intelligence as a program and budget analyst with assignments on the Army staff, a major command, a defense agency, and at an overseas field site.

Following his time with the Army, Norquist served for six years with the House

Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense as a professional staff member, where he focused on Air Force aircraft, munitions, ballistic missile defense and information assurance. From 2002 to 2006, he served as a deputy undersecretary of defense in the Office of the Comptroller. In 2006, President George W. Bush selected him as the first Senate-confirmed Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Homeland Security.

Between his stints in government service, Norquist was a partner with Kearney and Company, a certified public accounting firm.

Norquist was born in Concord, MA. He is a 1989 graduate of the University of Michigan, where he received a B.A. in political science and a master's in public policy. He also holds an M.A. in National Security Studies from Georgetown University.



## KATHRYN C. TURNER

*Founder, Chairman and CEO of Standard Technology, Inc.*

Kathryn C. Turner is the Founder, Chairman and CEO of Standard Technology, Inc.,

a management consulting firm focused on health information management for the Department of Defense.

An experienced board member in both profit and nonprofit organizations, Turner

serves or has served on the boards ConocoPhillips, Schering-Plough, and Carpenter Technology Corp., as well as the National Capital Area chapter of the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD).

Educated at Howard University, she has lived in the Washington, D.C. area most of her life. Turner was one of nine students selected by the NAACP to integrate the Alexandria, VA school system in the late

1950s. Additionally, she was the only woman present at "The Last Supper," the 1993 Secretary of Defense Les Aspin-hosted dinner informing senior defense industry officials they would need to consolidate.



# WOMEN IN DEFENSE 2023 National Conference

**Tools and Ideas for Asymmetric Advantage**

September 26 | Arlington, VA | [WomenInDefense.net](https://WomenInDefense.net)





## PATRICIA "TRICIA" M. WARD

*Principal Director, Booz Allen Hamilton*

flag- and Congressional-appointee level consultation to DoD leaders emphasizing Navy and Information Warfare initiatives. She leads multiple contracts that make up a large segment of the firm's Navy-Marine Corps Information Warfare Market.

Ward retired from the active duty Navy as a Senior Chief Information Technologist in 2001, blazing a path for women in the military during her 20-year career. She

served in the civil service as the Executive Assistant to the Level III SES in the Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems, handling some of the Navy's most critical information systems, including the backbone architectures for most Navy information technology. In that role, she also served as the subject matter expert on programmatic and business activities for the acquisition and execution of business systems. Ward, a staunch advocate of women in military and technology fields, currently serves on the National Council for WID and the Executive Board of Directors for the Military Women's Memorial

in Arlington and Chair of the Board's Development Committee.

Ward earned a B.A. from San Diego State in adult education and instructional system design and an M.S. in public policy leadership from Georgetown. In addition to her many military decorations, she received the Athena Pinnacle Award for Women in Technology, the San Diego Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year award and the YWCA "Tribute to Women in Industry" awards. She calls San Diego home and currently resides in Northern Virginia.



# EMERGING TECH HORIZONS



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**Log in and complete your profile today at [Jobs.NDIA.org](https://Jobs.NDIA.org)**



# Join the WID Family Today

Women In Defense traces its roots to 1979 when a group of women saw the need for an organization dedicated to networking and professional development within the defense and national security workspace. We welcome all women and men working in defense and national security to join WID. Membership provides access to a broad national network of women and men working in government, the defense industry, and academia. Membership also provides access to 20 local Chapters that provide leadership, networking, professional development, and mentoring opportunities throughout the year. Membership is free for government employees and active military, and is \$40 per year for industry and academia members. You can find membership information at [WomenInDefense.net/Join](https://WomenInDefense.net/Join)



## Chapter Map

As of May 2023



- |                    |                          |                           |                      |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Arizona         | 7. Greater Hampton Roads | 13. Michigan              | 19. Space Coast      |
| 2. Augusta         | 8. Greater Los Angeles   | 14. Mid-Atlantic          | 20. Tennessee Valley |
| 3. Capital         | 9. Greater Ohio Valley   | 15. New England Shoreline |                      |
| 4. Central Florida | 10. Greater Tampa Bay    | 16. Palmetto              |                      |
| 5. Chesapeake Bay  | 11. Liberty              | 17. Picatinny             |                      |
| 6. Greater Boston  | 12. Lone Star            | 18. San Diego             |                      |





Women have  
helped transform  
defense in  
amazing ways.

We're doing  
the same.