



# WOMEN IN DEFENSE

## 2024 National Conference

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE



September 24, 2024 | Arlington, VA  
Renaissance Capital View Arlington  
[WomenInDefense.net](https://WomenInDefense.net)

A Proud Affiliate of  
**NDIA**

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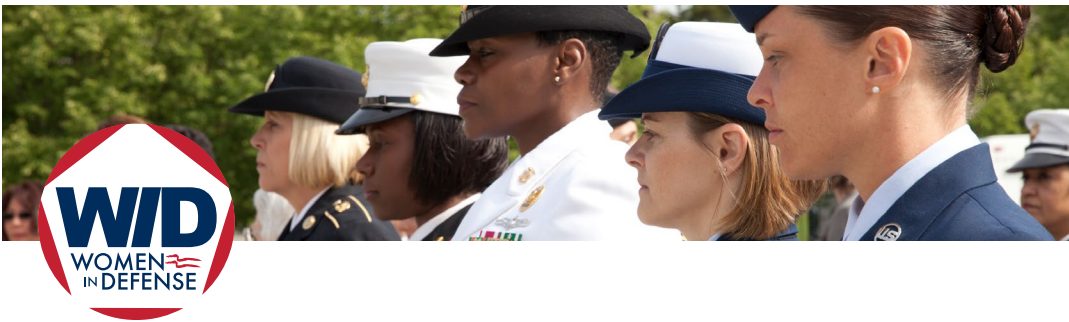
## NDIA

### Who We Are

Women In Defense (WID) is a proud affiliate of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA), the trusted leader in defense and national security associations. As a 501(c)(3) corporate and individual membership association, NDIA engages thoughtful and innovative leaders to exchange ideas, information, and capabilities that lead to the development of the best policies, practices, products, and technologies to ensure the safety and security of our nation. NDIA's membership embodies the full spectrum of corporate, government, academic, and individual stakeholders who form a vigorous, responsive, and collaborative community in support of defense and national security. For more than 100 years, NDIA and its predecessor organizations have been at the heart of the mission by dedicating their time, expertise, and energy to ensuring our warfighters have the best training, equipment, and support. For more information, visit [WomenInDefense.net](https://WomenInDefense.net) and [NDIA.org](https://NDIA.org)

## GET INVOLVED

Learn more about WID's Chapters and how to join one at [WomenInDefense.net/Chapters](https://WomenInDefense.net/Chapters)



### National Council

**Tricia Ward**  
Chair

**Debbie De La O**

**Sue Tellier**

**Arlene Korn**

**Ali Nepola**

**Elizabeth O'Kane**

**Diane Phillips**

**Gayla Suddarth**

# Women In Defense

WID strengthens the defense industrial base and workforce by promoting programming that creates and enhances opportunities for women, increasing diversity within the defense community.

## Mission

**Powering Defense Leaders:** Provide women with a formal environment for professional growth through strategic networking, education, and professional development.

**Preparing the Next Generation:** Create educational, coaching, and mentoring opportunities to encourage and enable young women to pursue careers in support of national defense.

# Welcome

Welcome to the 2024 Women In Defense (WID) National Conference. It is our great honor to have you here.

Our conference brings together more than 500 people from across the nation to network and learn from outstanding government and industry experts. The theme for this year's conference is "Foundations for the Future." We have a packed day, focused on providing foundational tools and ideas, targeted at preparing you for the future, today.

As the United States and our friends, partners, and allies focus on peer competition, we must fortify our strategic advantages to secure our shared future, as well as the success of our people. We must maximize the contributions of women across the spectrum of conflict in all domains.

The WID staff and National Council have intentionally created an agenda of speakers, panels, and workshops to help you

achieve the professional goals you have established for yourself.

We have also carefully built substantial networking time into the agenda to allow you to expand your professional reach. I can assure you: Someone you might meet during the conference can help you with a future professional goal. Strike up conversations wherever you can.

And if you're not a member, join WID and get involved in the Chapters. The National Conference is an important professional development and networking event, and you can maintain today's momentum by diving into and even leading regional Chapters.

Again, welcome to the conference! I look forward to a terrific day that will help all of us strengthen ourselves professionally in ways that can develop, protect, and sustain our nation.

**Tricia Ward**  
Chair, WID National Council  
Principal, Booz Allen Hamilton

## Event Information

### Mother's Room

Potomac Room 1 • A key can be found at the registration desk.

### Survey and Participant List

You will receive via email a survey and list of participants (name and organization) after the event. Please complete the survey to make our event even more successful in the future.

### Speaker Gifts

In lieu of speaker gifts, a donation is being made to the Fisher House Foundation.

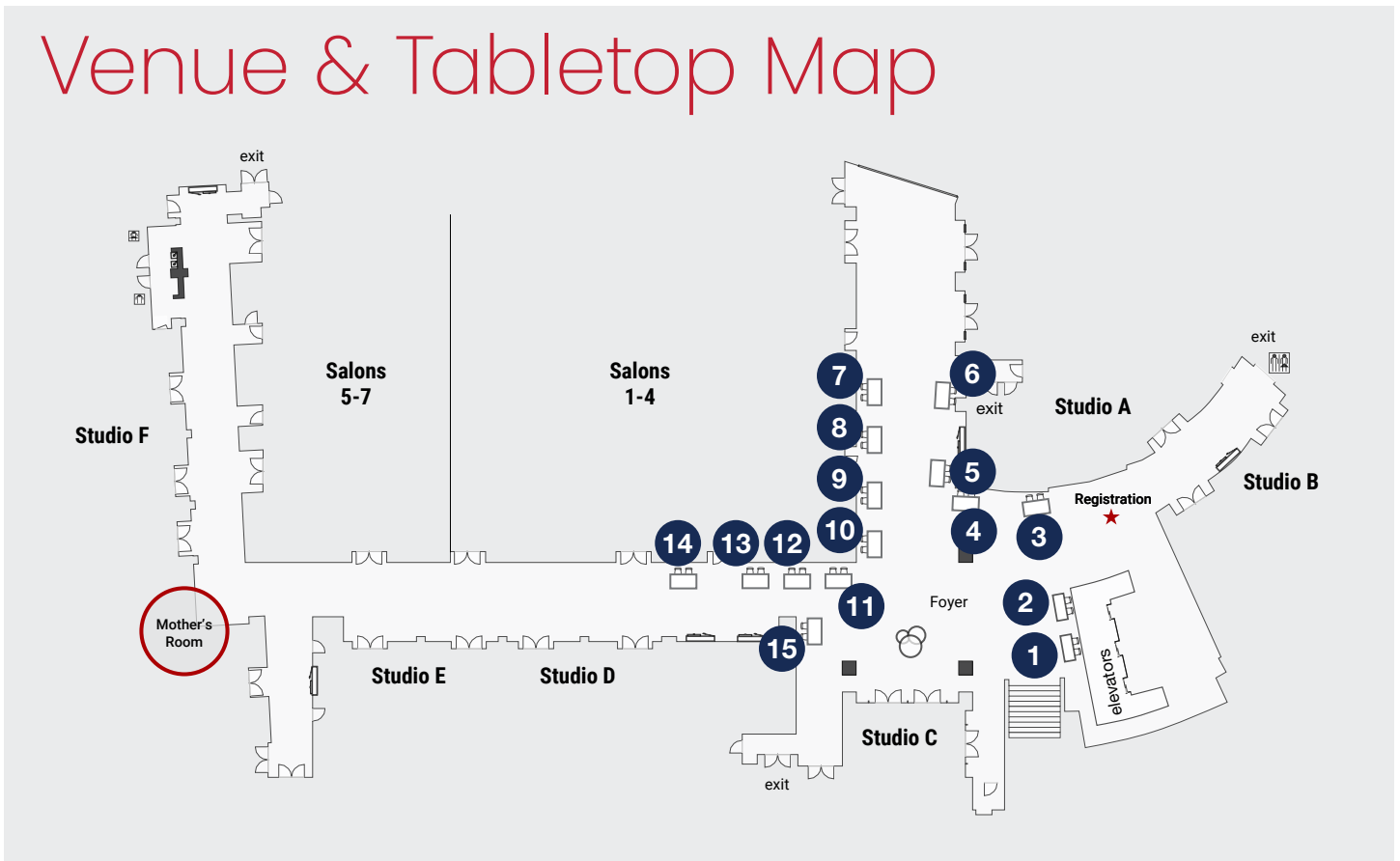
### Harassment Statement

NDIA is committed to providing a professional environment free from physical, psychological, and verbal harassment. NDIA will not tolerate harassment of any kind including, but not limited to, harassment based on ethnicity, religion, disability, physical appearance, gender, or sexual orientation. This policy applies to all participants and attendees at NDIA conferences, meetings, and events. Harassment includes offensive gestures and verbal comments, deliberate intimidation, stalking, following, inappropriate photography and recording, sustained disruption of talks or other events, inappropriate physical contact, and unwelcome attention. Participants requested to cease harassing behavior are expected to comply immediately, and failure will serve as grounds for revoking access to the NDIA event.

### Event Code of Conduct

NDIA's Event Code of Conduct applies to all National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA), National Training & Simulation Association (NTSA), and Women In Defense (WID) meeting-related events, whether in person at public or private facilities, online, or during virtual events. NDIA, NTSA, and WID are committed to providing a productive and welcoming environment for all participants. All participants are expected to abide by this code, as well as NDIA's ethical principles and practices. Visit [NDIA.org/CodeOfConduct](https://www.ndia.org/CodeOfConduct) to review the full policy.

# Venue & Tabletop Map



- |                                |   |   |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. NDIA                        | 6. Department of the Navy, Supervisor of Shipbuilding Community | 11. Elbit Systems of America            |
| 2. ETI                         | 7. Mercury Systems  | 12. University of Alabama in Huntsville |
| 3. Systems Planning & Analysis | 8. Raft   | 13. Leonardo DRS                        |
| 4. Leidos                      | 9. PwC  | 14. Parker Aerospace                    |
| 5. Boeing                      | 10. Booz Allen Hamilton   | 15. Ernst & Young                       |

Thank You to Our Strategic Partners



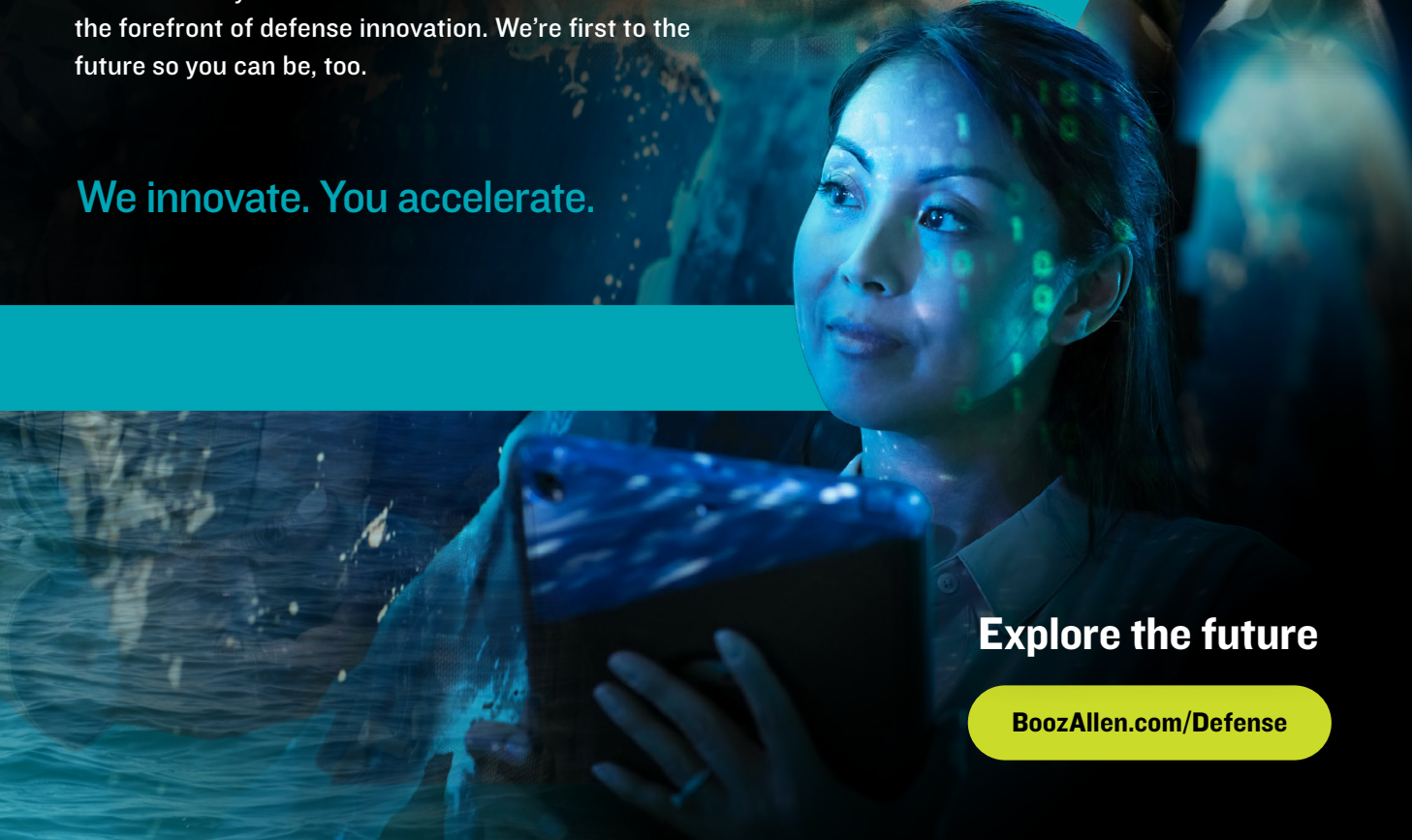


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# Agenda

7:00 am – 5:00 pm **Registration**  
FOYER

7:00 – 7:50 am **Networking Breakfast**  
FOYER

7:50 – 8:00 am **Welcome**  
SALONS 1 – 4

**Sue Tellier**

President & Owner, JetCo Federal  
Immediate Past Chair of WID National Council & WID Michigan Chapter President

**Michael Bayer**

President, Dumbarton Strategies  
Chair of the Board, National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA)

8:15 – 9:15 am **Kick-Off Keynote**  
SALONS 1 – 4

**The Hon. Melissa Dalton**

Under Secretary of the Air Force

9:15 – 9:40 am **Networking Break**  
FOYER

9:40 – 10:45 am **Young Professionals Panel**  
SALONS 1 – 4

**Jamie Jones Miller**

Chair, Leadership Council for Women in National Security  
*Moderator*

**Alexandra Psaris**

Strategy Consulting Director, PwC

**Alyx Ross**

Lead Program Management Specialist, Booz Allen Hamilton

**Jessica Rousselle**

Legislative Affairs & Policy Manager, BAE Systems

10:45 – 11:00 am **Networking Break**  
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11:00 am – 12:00 pm

## Breakout/Workshop Session #1

STUDIO C **You Discovered: Resumes Revealing the Best You!™**

Gretchen Larsen Idsinga

Chair Emeritus, National Conference, Women in Defense

STUDIO E **Tech 101: Hypersonics**

Dr. Mark Lewis

President & CEO, Purdue Applied Research Institute

STUDIO D **AI Unleashed: Navigating the Generative Frontier in Defense**

Dr. Michael Monroe

Senior Associate, Booz Allen Hamilton

Kelly Lozoya

Associate, Booz Allen Hamilton

STUDIO F **Maintaining Trust in a Crisis**

Fred Garcia

President, Logos Consulting Group

SALONS 5-7 **Effective Leadership: Thinking Up, Down, & Sideways**

Dr. Laura Lindenfeld

Dean, School of Communication & Journalism, Stony Brook University

STUDIO B **Brand Mastery: Ignite your Influence**

Kim Bode

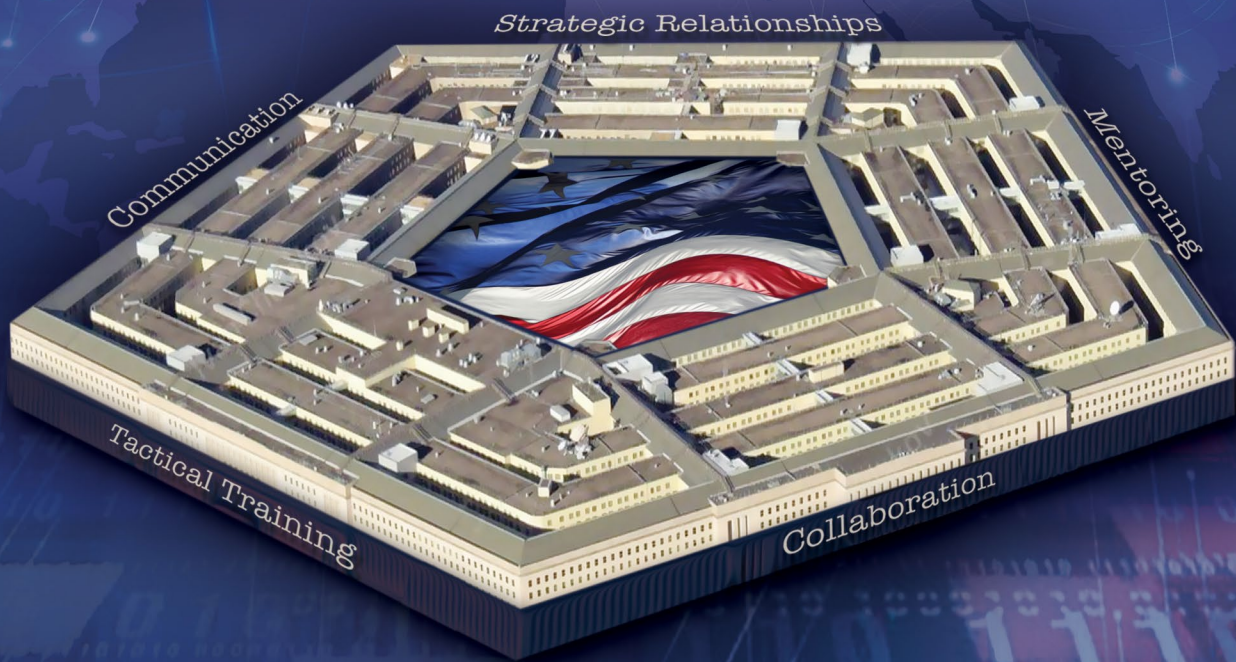
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12:00 – 1:30 pm

## Service to the Flag Award Luncheon

SALONS 1 – 4



2024

# Service to the Flag Award Ceremony

## About the Service to the Flag Award

The Service to the Flag Award honors extraordinary leadership within the national security and defense enterprise. Each year, Women In Defense recognizes two women, one from government and one from industry, who have successfully tackled some of our nation's most complex national security challenges. In addition to their strategic impact, awardees inspire others to use their talents to protect and defend the United States.

### Announcement of WID Scholarship Awardees & Welcome Remarks

#### Tricia Ward

Chair, Women In Defense  
Principal, Booz Allen Hamilton

### Presentation of the Service to the Flag Award

#### Dr. Radha Plumb

Chief Digital & Artificial Intelligence Officer, DoD  
*Government Awardee*

#### Leanne Caret

Former Chief Executive Officer, Boeing Defense, Space & Security  
*Industry Awardee*

### Adjourn

1:30 – 1:45 pm

## Networking Break

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1:45 – 2:45 pm

## Breakout/Workshop #2

STUDIO D

### You Discovered: Resumes Revealing the Best You!™

Gretchen Idsinga

Chair Emeritus, National Conference, Women In Defense

STUDIO F

### Life as a Staffer

Dr. Arun Seraphin

Executive Director, NDIA Emerging Technologies Institute

Laura McAleer

Associate Vice President, Federal & Washington Relations, University of Notre Dame

Jamie Jones Miller

CEO & Regional Dean, Arlington, VA Campus, Northeastern University

STUDIO B

### AI Unleashed: Navigating the Generative Frontier in Defense

Dr. Michael Monroe

Senior Associate, Booz Allen Hamilton

Kelly Lozoya

Associate, Booz Allen Hamilton

SALONS 5-7

### Detecting and Pre-Bunking Information

Fred Garcia

President, Logos Consulting Group

STUDIO C

### Building Trust Through Communication

Dr. Laura Lindenfeld

Dean, School of Communication & Journalism, Stony Brook University

STUDIO A

### Mastering Military Transition

Sarah Maples

Owner & CEO, Sarah Maples LLC

### Operationalizing Data

Hayley van Stappen

Enterprise Lead, Palantir

2:45 – 3:00 pm

## Networking Break

FOYER

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#WIDNC2024 [f](#) [in](#) [X](#)



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3:00 – 4:00 pm

## Breakout/Workshop #3

STUDIO F

### Empowering Progress and Responsiveness: Leading the Charge in Digital Modernization

**Sandra Lopez**

Senior Systems Engineer, Leidos

**Sue Yu**

Senior Solutions Architect, Leidos

STUDIO B

### Defense 101: Macroeconomics Variables Impacting Defense Spending

**Feodora Kurtz**

Head of Corporate Strategy, Airbus US Space & Defense

STUDIO E

### AI Unleashed: Navigating the Generative Frontier in Defense

**Dr. Michael Monroe**

Senior Associate, Booz Allen Hamilton

**Kelly Lozoya**

Associate, Booz Allen Hamilton

STUDIO D

### Maintaining Trust in a Crisis

**Fred Garcia**

President, Logos Consulting Group

SALONS 5-7

### Effective Leadership: Thinking Up, Down, & Sideways

**Dr. Laura Lindenfeld**

Dean, School of Communication & Journalism, Stony Brook University

4:00 – 4:15 pm

## Networking Break

FOYER

4:15 pm – 5:20 pm

## Closing Panel

SALONS 1 – 4

**Jen Stewart**

Executive Vice President, Strategy & Policy, NDIA

*Moderator*

**Augusta Binns-Berkey**

Director for Space Policy, National Security Council

**Gwyneth Woolwine**

Senior Advisor, Chief Digital & Artificial Intelligence Office

**Maria Vastola**

Professional Staff Member, House Armed Services Committee

**Katie Sutton**

Chief Technology Advisor to the Commander & Director of Pentagon Operations, U.S. Cyber Command

**Bess Dopkeen**

Senior Advisor, Under Secretary of Defense for Research & Engineering

5:20 – 7:00 pm

## Networking Reception

FOYER

**Tracy Garbee**

VP of Contracts, Elbit Systems of America

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# Workshop Presenters

## Morning Breakouts

### You, Discovered: Resumes Revealing The Best You™



**Gretchen Idsinga**  
Chair Emeritus  
National Conference, Women in Defense

### AI Unleashed: Navigating the Generative Frontier in Defense



**Dr. Michael Monroe**  
Senior Associate  
Booz Allen Hamilton

### Effective Leadership: Thinking Up, Down, & Sideways



**Dr. Laura Lindenfeld**  
Dean, School of Communication & Journalism, Stony Brook University

### Tech 101: Hypersonics



**Dr. Mark Lewis**  
President & CEO,  
Purdue Applied Research Institute



**Kelly Lozoya**  
Associate  
Booz Allen Hamilton

### Brand Mastery: Ignite your Influence



**Kim Bode**  
Owner  
8THIRTYFOUR Integrated Communications



**Dr. Arun Seraphin**  
Executive Director  
NDIA Emerging Technologies Institute

### Maintaining Trust in a Crisis



**Fred Garcia**  
President  
Logos Consulting Group

## Afternoon Breakouts

### Life as a Staffer



**Dr. Arun Seraphin**  
Executive Director  
NDIA Emerging Technologies Institute

### Building Trust Through Communication



**Dr. Laura Lindenfeld**  
Dean, School of Communication & Journalism, Stony Brook University

### Empowering Progress and Responsiveness: Leading the Charge in Digital Modernization



**Sandra Lopez**  
Senior Systems Engineer  
Leidos



**Laura McAleer**  
Associate Vice President  
Federal & Washington Relations,  
Notre Dame University

### Mastering Military Transition



**Sarah Maples**  
Owner & CEO  
Sarah Maples LLC



**Sue Yu**  
Senior Solutions Architect  
Leidos



**Jamie Jones Miller**  
CEO & Regional Dean  
Arlington, VA Campus,  
Northeastern University

### Operationalizing Data



**Hayley van Stappen**  
Enterprise Lead  
Palantir

### Defense 101: Macroeconomics Variables Impacting Defense Spending



**Feodora Kurtz**  
Head of Corporate Strategy,  
Airbus US Space & Defense

### Detecting and Pre-bunking Disinformation



**Fred Garcia**  
President  
Logos Consulting Group



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# Encouraging National Security & Defense Careers

Formerly HORIZONS Scholarship

The WID Scholar program, established by Women In Defense in 1988, supports women pursuing careers in U.S. national security with a focus on defense or foreign policy. Since its inception, the program has awarded over \$976,000 to 196 recipients studying fields like law, engineering, math, and public policy. Scholarships are based on academic achievement, involvement in defense and national security, field of study, work experience, personal statements, recommendations, and financial need. Recipients must periodically report on the awards' impact. The program aims to boost diversity and innovation in government, academia, and the defense industry. Learn more at [WomenInDefense.net/WIDScholar/Apply](https://WomenInDefense.net/WIDScholar/Apply)

## 2024 WID Scholars

**Stephanie Andress**  
Purdue University  
PhD Candidate in  
Mechanical Engineering

**Noopur Bhatt**  
Columbia University  
MS Candidate in Computer Science

**Angelique Klimek**  
Purdue University  
MS Candidate in Chemical Engineering

**Gabrielle Watson**  
Georgia Tech  
MS Candidate in Analytics

**Paige Berg**  
University of Alabama in  
Huntsville  
PhD Candidate in Aerospace  
Systems Engineering

**Michaela Hemming**  
The University of Alabama in  
Huntsville  
PhD Candidate in Aerospace  
Systems Engineering

**Heajune Lee**  
Harvard Law School  
PhD Candidate in National  
Security Law

**Jordanna Yochai**  
Columbia University  
Masters of International  
Affairs Candidate



# CONGRATULATIONS

## 2024 WID National Scholars!



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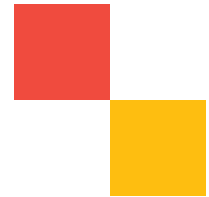


**UAH WID Scholar Michaela Hemming** received a Challenge Coin from **Dr. Hedi Shyu** the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering



# Create new paths forward

PwC is proud to support  
Women in Defense 2024  
National Conference as part of  
our commitment to creating  
opportunities and meaningful  
change in the world.



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# Biographies



## SUE TELLIER

*Jetco Federal, WID National Conference Past Chair, WID Michigan Chapter President*

Ms. Sue Tellier is the president and owner of JetCo Federal, a prime contractor in custom crating

and packaging, warehousing, supply chain management, and logistics serving the defense industrial base that opened in 2007.

Tellier has worked in procurement marketing for the Michigan Department of Management and Budget (DMB). As DMB's head of Supplier Diversity and Business Outreach, Tellier trained more than 4,300 companies, teaching them how to bid on

and win state government contracts.

Tellier volunteers time to support the defense industrial base and advocates for small and woman-owned small businesses.

She is the Immediate Past Chair of the Women In Defense National Council and the President of Women In Defense – Michigan Chapter and a long-time member of NDIA as an active participant in the Logistics Division. Sue serves on the Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP) Board of Directors as the First Vice Chair.

Tellier serves on the board and the

executive committee for the Small Business Association of Michigan (SBAM), the largest statewide small business advocacy organization in the country. She is a gubernatorial appointee; Governor Whitmer selected Tellier to serve on the Michigan Strategic Fund, which has broad authority to promote economic development and create jobs.

Tellier holds a BS in Public Affairs Management from Michigan State University and a graduate certificate in Economic Development from Wayne State University.

## Kick-off Keynote Speaker



## THE HON. MELISSA DALTON

*Under Secretary of the Air Force*

The Hon. Melissa G. Dalton is the 28th Under Secretary of the Air Force. As the Department of the

Air Force's second-highest ranking official, she is responsible for organizing, training, and equipping the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force. Dalton oversees an annual budget exceeding \$200 bn, provides air and space forces to combatant commanders in support of global military operations, and is accountable for the welfare of nearly 700,000 active duty, guard, reserve, civilian

airmen, guardians and their families.

Dalton has more than 20 years of experience in U.S. defense strategy, policy, and national security affairs. Prior to this role, she performed the duties of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy from December 2023 to May 2024 where she served as the principal advisor to the Secretary of Defense on the formation of national security and defense policy. Additionally, she served as the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Hemispheric Affairs from March 2022 to May 2024. She joined the Biden

Administration in January 2021 as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities.

Dalton served for more than a decade as a civil servant in the Bush and Obama administrations within the DoD, including as Policy Advisor to the Commander of the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul, Afghanistan, and more. She has extensive experience within various prominent think tank organizations including the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Center for a New American Security.



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# YOUNG PROFESSIONAL PANEL



## JAMIE MILLER

*Chair, Leadership Council for Women in National Security*

Ms. Jamie Miller is an experienced senior executive, trusted advisor, and skilled facilitator, with over 20 years of experience in national security. Miller was tapped to be the inaugural Dean and CEO of Northeastern University's campus in Arlington, VA in 2022 and is the current chair of the Leadership Council for Women in National Security, an organization dedicated to elevating women into the

most senior national security roles. Miller's government service includes 13 years on Capitol Hill where she held senior staff roles including chief of staff, deputy chief of staff, and legislative director. Jamie subsequently served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for House Affairs (SES II) and as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs (SES III). She is the lead facilitator for the DoD Vanguard Senior Executive Leadership Program and has served on the faculty of

National Defense University's PINNACLE course for prospective joint/combined force commanders since 2018. Miller serves the House of Representatives as a consultant to members of Congress through the Congressional Excellence Program and is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a member of NDIA's Board of Directors, and a member of the Blue Star Families National Advisory Board.



## ALEXANDRA PSARIS

*Strategy Consulting Director, PwC*

Ms. Alexandra Psaris is a director in PwC's strategy consulting practice. Based in D.C., she leads the Aerospace and Defense growth strategy practice, with her primary focus on digital transformation. She has over

10 years of experience supporting large programs and A&D organizations with their strategy and digital assets development.

Psaris holds a BSBA in Finance from Bucknell University and has a Chief Data Officer Certification from Carnegie Mellon.

Psaris recently presented at the NDIA IPMD 2024 Spring Conference as the keynote speaker for AI Enabled Predictive Program Management. She discussed the importance of using AI-enabled capabilities with forward-looking program visibility to strengthen program capture and affordability.

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## ALYX ROSS

*Lead Program Management Specialist, Booz Allen Hamilton*

Ms. Alyx Ross, a seasoned defense industry professional with eight years of experience,

is a distinguished young professional at Booz Allen.

Ross began her career at Booz Allen in government acquisition as an intern prior to her senior year in college. After her internship, Ross began her career as a consultant, supporting the Naval

Air Warfare Center, Aircraft Division (NAWCAD). She then served as a senior consultant in procurement for programs including Naval Special Warfare (NSW), 480th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing (ISRW), Special Operations Command Africa (SOCAF), Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), and Naval Region Southwest (NRSW).

Currently, she serves as a lead associate and deputy program manager within a Program Executive Office (PEO Digital)

project, the Procurement Center of Excellence. This position falls within Booz Allen's Global Defense Sector and the Navy and Marine Corps account. Ross leads a hybrid team of professionals focused on consulting in the areas of government acquisition and contracting policy specifically within the information technology acquisition community.

Ross earned a BA from Washington College in Business Administration and an MBA from Strayer University.



## JESSICA ROUSSELLE

*Legislative Affairs and Policy Manager, BAE Systems*

Ms. Jessica Rousselle is the legislative affairs and policy manager at BAE Systems, Inc. In this

capacity, Rousselle plays a critical role in shaping and guiding the company's defense policy and budget initiatives. She monitors and analyzes key federal policy and budget

developments, collaborates across teams to assess business impacts, and crafts strategic recommendations on defense-related government relations issues.

Before her transition into the defense industry, Jessica was a key member of multiple lobbying firm teams in Washington, D.C., where she

focused on policy issue research and congressional outreach strategies.

Rousselle holds a BA in International Affairs and French from James Madison University and is currently pursuing an MA in International Security from George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government.



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## Service to the Flag – Government



### DR. RADHA PLUMB

*Chief Digital & Artificial Intelligence Officer, DoD*

Dr. Radha Plumb assumed the role of Department of Defense Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer, a Principal Staff Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense in April 2024. In this role she leads the acceleration of the DoD's adoption of data, analytics, and artificial intelligence (AI) to generate decision advantage.

Prior to this appointment, she served as the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (DUSD(A&S)) and served the Under Secretary of Defense on acquisition; contract administration; logistics and materiel readiness; installations and environment; operational energy; chemical, biological, and nuclear defense; the acquisition workforce; and the defense industrial base.

Previous DoD assignments include serving as Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary of Defense and as Acting Deputy Director of Administration and Management within the DoD. She has served as the Director of Research and Insights for Trust & Safety at Google, as Global Head of Policy Analysis at Facebook, and as a senior economist at the RAND Corporation where she focused on readiness and security efforts across the DoD. In that capacity she served as lead author on reports including assessing the implications of open service of Transgender Service members.

From 2014 – 2015, Dr. Plumb served as the Deputy Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary of Energy, where she led policy processes to modernize our nuclear and energy infrastructure. Previously, she was the director of personnel and readiness at the National Security Council, where she

was instrumental on executive actions on sexual assault in the military. She served as policy advisor and Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict, and as a civilian in Afghanistan supporting the Counterinsurgency Advisory and Assistance Team for the Commander, International Security Assistance Force.

Dr. Plumb received her PhD. in Economics from Princeton University. Her research has covered empirical evaluations of policies aimed at reducing violence, including criminal violence, sexual assault, terrorist behavior, and sexual and intimate partner violence. At the outset of her career, she was an assistant professor at the London School of Economics and a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Scholar at Harvard.

## Service to the Flag – Industry



### LEANNE CARET

*Former Chief Executive Officer, Boeing Defense, Space & Security*

Ms. Leanne Caret is an accomplished CEO, Fortune 100 director, and expert on building high-performing organizations and transforming industries through technology. Highly strategic, decisive, and collaborative, she is an extraordinary team builder and steady C-suite counselor.

Caret is a Senior Advisor to Blackstone. She serves as a Board Director, as well as Chair of Audit Committee for both Deere & Company and RTX, formerly Raytheon Technologies. Additionally, she serves

as a senior advisor to MyNextSeason, coaching and mentoring C-suite leaders.

Most recently, Caret served as the Executive Vice President and Senior Advisor of The Boeing Company. Prior to that, she served as the CEO and President of Boeing Defense, Space & Security (BDS) for six years until her retirement in 2022. Leading a \$30 bn global business unit, she oversaw 30,000 employees across four continents.

Over her 34-year career at Boeing, she rose through finance, operations, and general management, working with all parts of the company around the world.

Caret serves on the boards of Kansas State University Foundation, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and USO Inc. She is a member of the advisory boards for Virginia Tech National Security Institute and the Oklahoma Aerospace and Defense Innovation Institute. She is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Caret is a graduate of Kansas State University where she received a BS in Business Administration and Wichita State University where she received her MBA.





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# Closing Panel



## JEN STEWART

*Executive Vice President, Strategy & Policy, NDIA*

Prior to her position at NDIA, Ms. Jen Stewart worked as the chief of staff to the Hon. Dr. Mark

T. Esper, the 27th Secretary of Defense. In this capacity, she was responsible for leading Sec. Esper's executive staff, working with civilian executives and senior military leaders across DoD, and providing counsel and advice to the Secretary on all matters concerning DoD.

Previously, Stewart served as both the majority and minority staff director at the House Committee on Armed Services for the Hon. William M. "Mac" Thornberry. In

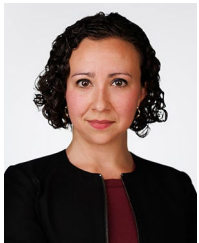
this capacity, she was the principal staff advisor responsible for the formulation, passage, and enactment of annual defense authorization legislation, which covers all programs and activities at the DoD as well as the national security programs at the Department of Energy. She was responsible for the strategic planning and execution of all committee oversight and legislative operations.

Prior to her tenure as staff director, Stewart served as senior advisor to Gen. Joseph F. Dunford (Ret) during his first term as Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. In this role, she was responsible for facilitating his relationships across the interagency

and with Congress. She also co-led the Joint Staff's presidential transition team.

Stewart began her career in the U.S. House of Representatives working for the Hon. John A. Boehner. In addition to serving as policy advisor on all national security matters for Speaker Boehner during his ten years in leadership, she also served in a similar role in assisting the Hon. Paul D. Ryan transition into his responsibilities as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Overall, she has nineteen years of public service, including over fifteen consecutive years of serving in senior national security positions at both DoD and in Congress.



## AUGUSTA BINNS-BERKEY

*Director for Space Policy, National Security Council*

Ms. Augusta Binns-Berkey is the Director for Space Policy at the National Security Council.

Previously, she served as senior advisor to the Chief of Space Operations, in support of the first and second Space Force service chiefs. In this role, she provided direct counsel on policy, strategy, organization, and initiatives; internal and

external engagement and communication and other issues related to the broader DoD, Capitol Hill, and the interagency.

She also served as a professional staff member on the Senate Armed Services Committee, responsible for policy, programs, and budgets related to nuclear weapons, missile defense, and space. Before the Senate, she conducted research and wargames on the future nuclear

security environment within the Office of the Secretary of Defense. She has spent time in the State Department's Office of Security Assistance and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Yale and a master's degree in strategic studies and international economics from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. She is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



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## GWYNETH WOOLWINE

*Senior Advisor, Chief Digital & Artificial Intelligence Office*

After standing up CDAO's Legislative Affairs function last year, Ms. Gwyneth Woolwine is currently

a Senior Advisor to the CDAO Component Acquisition Executive and Chief of Staff for Acquisition and Assurance. During the

height of major Congressional acquisition reform, she spent 5 years as a Professional Staff Member on the Senate Armed Services committee, where her portfolio was Acquisition & Contracting, including policy, major defense acquisition programs, and alternative acquisition pathways such as software acquisition; Information

Technology, management, and industrial base. She began her federal service at the Government Accountability Office where she spent 12 years conducting more than 40 evaluations of U.S. national security programs and major management functions, including defense capability acquisition.



## MARIA VASTOLA

*Professional Staff Member, House Armed Services Committee*

Ms. Maria Vastola served as a professional member of the House Armed Services Committee

from 2018, as a staff lead for the Strategic Forces Subcommittee. Her portfolio includes oversight of national security space policy and programs (including DOD and IC programs); U.S. nuclear weapon development and policy, nuclear command, control, and communications (NC3) and

continuity of government; missile defense policy, programs, and budgets within the DoD and Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration.

From 2008 to 2017 Vastola served in the Missile Defense Agency in Fort Belvoir, VA, where she held various positions including base realignment and closure team analyst, special assistant to the Deputy Director and Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense Program Executive Officer, and acquisition analyst.

Across all positions, Vastola monitored the cost, schedule, performance, and policy of national missile defense programs. She holds particular subject matter expertise in Aegis BMD Navy and MDA programs, and non-standard missile defense acquisition processes and procedures.

She also served in the private sector as a contracts administrator and program analyst. She holds a BA in Communications, Legal Institutions, Economics and Government from American University.

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## KATIE SUTTON

*Chief Technology Advisor to the Commander & Director of Pentagon Operations*

Ms. Katie Sutton joined U.S. Cyber Command in June 2023 as the Chief Technology Advisor

to the Commander and Director of Pentagon Operations to advise the Commander on the development of engineering strategies and policies necessary to execute the Command's authorities for service-like functions, workforce management, acquisition, and enhanced budget control. In this role, she is responsible for providing direct advice to the 4-star Commander and for overseeing, synchronizing, and representing the Command through senior member engagements within the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Joint Staff, Military Departments, and federal agencies.

Additionally, she is responsible for the public affairs representation of USCYBERCOM's cybersecurity, policy, and strategic communications initiatives. Prior to this position, Sutton served on the

Senate Armed Services Committee as a professional staff member from December 2018 to February 2023 with responsibility as the staff lead for the Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and for the spectrum, emerging technology, and science & technology portfolios. She has served on the House Armed Services Committee Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee with responsibility for the cyber, information technology/cloud, and NSA portfolios. Prior to that, Sutton spent 15 years as an electrical engineer at Sandia National Laboratories, working on a variety of information assurance, cybersecurity, and nonproliferation projects. Her roles included managing a cybersecurity R&D team, serving as a congressional fellow to the HASC, and one year as a technical advisor detailed to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Research & Development Office (NA-22) at the National Nuclear Security Administration for Space-Based Nuclear Detonation Detection. Previously, she served

in several technical and leadership roles on the Global Burst Detector satellite program, a nuclear detonation detection system that is integrated on the GPS satellites. She also worked in the Nuclear Weapons Use Control Systems engineering department as the lead engineer for the TEMPEST/EMI test capability, and as systems engineer and product engineer for several components of the Code Management System.

She graduated with highest honors from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a BS in Electrical Engineering and has an MS from Stanford University in Electrical Engineering. She has received the Military Cyber Professionals Association Gold Order of Thor medal, the Secretary of Energy Achievement Award, and two Sandia National Laboratories Employee Recognition Awards for Individual Exceptional Service. Sutton is active in the Leadership Council for Women in National Security, the Military Cyber Professionals Association, and the Junior League of Washington.

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## BESS DOPKEEN

*Senior Advisor, Under Secretary of Defense for Research Engineering*

Ms. Bess Dopkeen is the Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering in the DoD.

Previously Dopkeen was the lead majority professional staff member for Science and Technology on the House Armed Services Committee on the Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems Subcommittee in the 117th Congress. In the 116th Congress she was the majority's lead professional staff member for Science and Technology and Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction on the HASC's Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee.

Dopkeen served as a senior analyst in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Cost Assessment & Program Evaluation (CAPE). She led the Defense Innovation

Board's 2018 Software Acquisition and Practices congressionally mandated study for the Under Secretary of Acquisition and Sustainment. For five years, she was the Program Manager for the Cost Assessment Data Enterprise, the Department's unified initiative to strategically collect, organize and use cost data across the cost community. In 2015, Dopkeen led the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Acquisition's better data initiative. Dopkeen worked on the Department's independent cost estimates of major acquisition programs and automated information systems, and on other initiatives including CAPE's national security space launch study, the Secretary's evolutionary satellite acquisition-efficiency project, and the National Nuclear Security Administration's national labs labor-cost analysis. At CAPE she received the Secretary of Defense

medals for Meritorious and Exceptional Civilian Service and the Office of the Secretary of Defense's award for excellence. Before CAPE, she served as an analyst for the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

Dopkeen holds a BA in Political Science from Tufts University, and an MS. in National Resource Strategy from the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy at National Defense University. Dopkeen is a Council on Foreign Relations Term Member, was a Center for a New American Security Next Generation fellow and has been a Truman National Security Project Fellow since 2009. Dopkeen helped create Tufts' Tisch College of Civic Life's summer fellowship and mentorship program in D.C. and created and led the Tufts Fellowship program in the Pentagon for over a decade.



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As of August 2024



## Chapter Map



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

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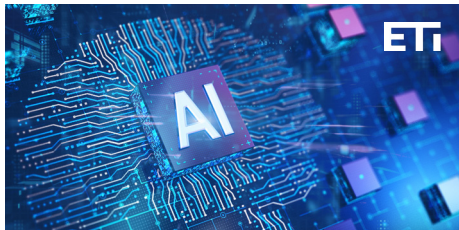
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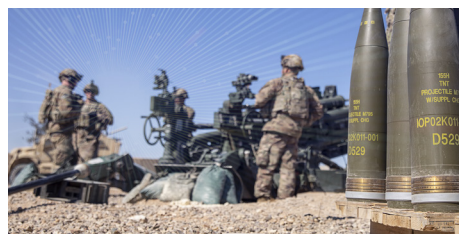
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