

## Development of a Plan to Promote Defense Research at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Hispanic-Serving Institutions – (November 8, 2023) – OPEN SESSION

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### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

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#### **David Montgomery, PhD. – Director, Minerva Research Initiative**

David Montgomery is the Director, Social Science, in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (OUSD-R&E), and Director of the Minerva Research Initiative, a fundamental social science research program co-managed with OUSD-R&E and OUSD-Policy.

Separately, he is Director of Program Development for CEDAR—Communities Engaging with Difference and Religion, an international educational non-profit, and Research Professor in the Department of Government and Politics and the Center for International Development and Conflict Management at the University of Maryland, College Park.

#### **Jennifer Thabet – Program Director, Small Business Programs Office, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency**

Ms. Jennifer Thabet is an experienced program manager with an extensive background supporting DARPA and the DoD. Enhancing the ability of the small business community to create and transition revolutionary technologies that benefit the warfighter, federal government, and commercial marketplace is of paramount importance in Thabet's role of program director, DARPA Small Business Programs Office (SBPO). She is focused on creating an environment that considers small business concerns a primary source of innovative solutions and advancing small business relationships and training opportunities within the DoD and other federal agencies.

#### **Edward J. Lee – Program Manager, Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR), Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Minority Serving Institutions**

Mr. Edward J. Lee is the Program Manager for Historically Black Colleges and Minority Institutions (HBCU/MI's) for the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) in Arlington, VA, one of the 9 directorates that comprise the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL). He is responsible for coordinating activities that provide funding support to minority institutions across the nation. Mr. Lee provides leadership, strategic direction, and oversight to universities to help make them aware of opportunities and facilitates introductions and guidance to ensure institutions of higher education are well represented within the minority community. He has a unique way of communicating and can talk to everyone to make them feel special, from students to university Presidents. Mr. Lee has taken on the task of coordinating activities with the small business programs of SBIR and STTR geared towards fostering the commercialization of products to the warfighter for the Department of Defense.

#### **Rahel R. Rudd –S&E Workforce Manager, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Engineering & Force Management Division (SAF/AQRE)**

Ms. Rahel R. Rudd is the S&E Workforce Manager in the Engineering and Force Management Division in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science, Technology & Engineering. Her responsibilities include providing oversight and management for the SMART Scholarship-for-Service Program and the DAF K-20 STEM pipeline programs. She directly supports the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Science, Technology and Engineering in the management of the S&E career field while collaborating with key DAF stakeholders to assess the needs of the S&E workforce. Additionally, she is responsible for developing and reviewing DoD and DAF S&E career field policy for approval and implementation.

**Treniece Terry, PhD – Technical Engagements Program Manager for the Research and Development, Enabling Capabilities Division of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency**

Dr. Treniece Terry is the Technical Engagements Program Manager for the Research and Development, Enabling Capabilities Division of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). She manages farsighted, high-payoff research focused on exploring the fundamental mechanisms that govern material response in extreme environments that include chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats to further capabilities development of interest to the Department of Defense.

As a Senior Scientist at the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute, Dr. Terry acquired extensive experience leading research efforts that specialized in designing multi-responsive nanoplateforms that modulated biological processes to develop radiological countermeasures using novel polymeric and metal-based hybrid materials. Her training in cancer, biotechnology, and nanotechnology integrated the 29 fields of pharmaceutical science, material science, and chemical biology.

**John P. Galer – Chief of Government Relations, Aerospace Corporation**

John Galer is the Chief of Government Relations for the Aerospace Corporation where he leads the corporation's government relations activities, providing strategic vision and execution of a growing portfolio of educational and outreach efforts to Congress, Executive Branch, and state and local government officials. Concurrently, Galer serves as the co-chair of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Space Systems Critical Infrastructure Working group, a public-private partnership that identifies and develops strategies to minimize risks and increase the security and resiliency of America's space-based assets and critical functions.