

# TRIAD



## AGENDA

### TRIAD

#### SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY PANEL

Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)

National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA)

#### Conference Co-Chairs:

AIA

Ms. Benita Fortner  
Raytheon Company

NDIA

Ms. Diane Dempsey  
BAE Systems

### Brief Overview of TRIAD

The National Defense Industrial Association, in conjunction with Aerospace Industries Association is hosting the TRI-Association Small Business Advisory Panel (TRIAD) Conference. The TRIAD was formed in 1967 to coordinate the efforts of small business subcontracting representatives. It was formed to serve the best interests of the industry associations and their member companies, affected government agencies, and the small business community.

The meeting provides an opportunity to exchange pertinent information concerning small and diverse business utilization, legislative changes and its impact on government prime contractors. Its mission is to further an open exchange, promoting broad-based government-industry communications, cooperation, and understanding.

# TRIAD Agenda

7:30 am - 5:15 pm	<b>REGISTRATION OPEN</b>
7:30 am - 8:00 am	<b>NETWORKING CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST</b>
8:00 am - 8:20 am	<b>WELCOME</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Ms. Benita Fortner, <i>TRIAD Co-Chair; Director, Supplier Diversity, Raytheon Company</i></li><li>▶ Pledge of Allegiance</li><li>▶ Introductions of TRIAD Members and Guests</li></ul>
8:20 am - 8:40 am	<b>LEADING IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Mr. David Wilkins, <i>Vice President, Contracts and Supply Chain, Raytheon Company</i></li></ul>
8:40 am - 10:10 am	<b>DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE UPDATE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Mr. Kenyata Wesley, <i>Acting Director, DoD Office of Small Business Programs</i></li></ul>
10:10 am - 10:30 am	<b>NETWORKING BREAK</b>
10:30 am - 11:00 am	<b>LEGISLATIVE UPDATE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Ms. Mary Ellen Fraser, <i>Director, Government Relations, Lockheed Martin Corporation</i></li></ul>
11:00 am - 12:15 pm	<b>CUSTOMER PANEL</b> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Ms. Benita Fortner, <i>TRIAD Co-Chair; Director, Supplier Diversity, The Raytheon Company</i></li></ul> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Ms. Emily Harman, <i>Director, Office of Small Business Programs, U.S. Navy</i></li><li>▶ Ms. Pamela Callicut, <i>Deputy Director, Army Office of Small Business Programs</i></li><li>▶ Mr. Lee Rosenberg, <i>Director, Small Business Programs, Missile Defense Agency</i></li><li>▶ Mr. Mark Teskey, <i>Director, Small Business Programs, U.S. Air Force</i></li></ul>
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm	<b>NETWORKING LUNCHEON</b>
1:15 pm - 1:45 pm	<b>DEFENSE CONTRACT MANAGEMENT AGENCY UPDATE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Ms. Tatia Evelyn-Bellamy, <i>Director, Small Business Division and Center, Small Business Ombudsman, Defense Contract Management Agency</i></li></ul>
1:45 pm - 2:15 pm	<b>U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Ms. Jackie Robinson-Burnette, <i>SES, Associate Administrator of Business Development, Headquarters, U.S. Small Business Administration</i></li></ul>
2:15 pm - 2:45 pm	<b>NATIONAL VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS COALITION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Mr. Scott Denniston, <i>Executive Director, National Veteran Small Business Coalition</i></li></ul>
2:45 pm - 3:15 pm	<b>NETWORKING BREAK</b>
3:15 pm - 3:45 pm	<b>MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Ms. Alejandra Castillo, <i>National Director, Minority Business Development Agency</i></li></ul>
3:45 pm - 4:15 pm	<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Mr. Tom Leney, <i>Executive Director, Small and Veteran Business Programs, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs</i></li></ul>
4:15 pm - 5:00 pm	<b>SBIR PARTNERSHIPS / COLLABORATIONS PANEL</b>
5:00 pm - 5:15 pm	<b>CLOSING ACTIVITIES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Ms. Diane Dempsey, <i>TRIAD Co-Chair; Director, Socio Economic Programs, BAE Systems</i></li></ul>
5:15 pm	<b>ADJOURN</b>



**Ms. Benita Fortner**  
**NDIA TRIAD Co-Chair, Meeting Chairperson**  
**Director, Supplier Diversity**  
**Raytheon Company**

Ms. Benita Fortner is the director of supplier diversity for Raytheon Company. She assumed the position in September 2000 after serving as the socioeconomic program manager for Raytheon Company. Raytheon Company (NYSE: RTN), with 2012 sales of \$24 billion and 68,000 employees worldwide, is a technology and innovation leader specializing in defense, security and civil markets throughout the world. Raytheon's global headquarters is in Waltham, MA.

Prior to joining Raytheon, Fortner served as the Corporate Liaison Officer and manager of Socioeconomic Programs for Hughes Electronics Corporation, where she held numerous management positions over a 28-eight year career.

Fortner is the 2014 incoming chair for the Women's Business Enterprise Council (WBENC) and currently serves as one of two co-chairs of the TRIAD (an aerospace and defense industry group focused on government small business issues). She serves as chair of the Advisory Board for the Tuck Minority Business Executive Programs and previously served on the Board of Overseers for the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth. She is a past chair of the board of directors for Diversity Information Resources. She currently serves on the boards of the National Minority Supplier Development Council, the New England Minority Supplier Development Council, the Women's Business Enterprise National Council, the Business Consortium Fund and the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development Resource Council.

Fortner has been involved in minority and women business outreach and development for more than 20 years. Her leadership roles in government and industry include: the National Chair for MED Week 2002–2004 and named Chair Emeritus in 2005; and the U.S. Small Business Administration's Small Business Week Planning Committee. She is a past chair of the National Minority Supplier Development Council's Chairperson's Committee, the Southern California Regional Purchasing Council, and a past Executive Committee Member of NMSDC. She has participated in a myriad of supplier diversity and development conferences and seminars from planning and facilitating to speaking and conducting workshops.

In her previous position as procurement manager at Hughes Aircraft Company, she was instrumental in significantly increasing the number of corporate agreements awarded to small, minority and women-owned suppliers, implementing supplier customer feedback sessions, and second tier alliances. Fortner participated on the team that researched and implemented electronic data interchange as a purchasing vehicle.

Fortner served on the Youth Motivation Task Force as a volunteer for more than 20 years. She has also served as an Advisory Board Member to Yo-San University (School of Traditional Chinese Medicine). Fortner holds a bachelor of science in law and Juris Doctor degree from Golden West University and completed Raytheon's Business Leadership Program.



**Mr. David Wilkins**  
**Vice President, Contracts and Supply Chain**  
**Raytheon Company**

David Wilkins is vice president of Contracts and Supply Chain for Raytheon Company (NYSE: RTN). Raytheon Company, with 2014 sales of \$23 billion and 61,000 employees worldwide, is a technology and innovation leader specializing in defense, civil government and cybersecurity markets throughout the world. Raytheon is headquartered in Waltham, MA.

He was named to the position in March 2010. He is a member of Raytheon's senior leadership team and participates in the operational management and strategic planning of the company.

Wilkins is responsible for maintaining an effective risk review process, providing corporatewide policy, direction, training and oversight of Contracts, Supply Chain and Export/Import matters and ensuring that all Raytheon businesses meet acceptable performance standards in these areas. He serves as a principal interface with key government regulators regarding all Contracts, Supply Chain and Export/Import matters, government regulatory policy and oversight. He also develops and implements companywide Supply Chain strategies and key processes. He is responsible for enterprise socio-economic business planning, strategy and compliance relative to Raytheon's Supply Chain.

Prior to his corporate leadership role, Wilkins was vice president, Contracts, for Raytheon Network Centric Systems based in McKinney, Texas, after joining the company in January 2002.

Before joining Raytheon, Wilkins served in a number of positions with increasing responsibility in the aerospace and defense industry, including as a business unit vice president of Contracts at Northrop Grumman Corporation, College Park, Md.; a business unit vice president of Contracts, Supply Chain, and Pricing at the Litton Corporation; as well as a director of Supply Chain Management at Hughes Space and Communications. He has also served as a contracting officer and acquisition analyst at the DoD Space and Missile Systems Center in Los Angeles, Calif., and in the Air Force's Contract Management Division in Anaheim, Calif.

Wilkins is a member of the Maryland Bar and the American Bar Association. He is also a Certified Professional Contract Manager (CPCM) through the National Contract Management Association.

He received his bachelor's degree in economics and financial management, and his MBA, from the University of New Mexico (E). He earned his law degree from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, Calif. He also graduated from an Executive Graduate Program at Harvard Business School.



**Mr. Kenyata Wesley**  
**Acting Director**  
**DoD Office of Small Business Programs**

Mr. Kenyata L. Wesley is currently the Department of Defense, Acting Director for the Office of Small Business Programs. Mr. Wesley is responsible for the oversight of DoD Small Business Programs and Policy to include, SBIR/STTR, Rapid Innovation Fund, Mentor Protégé, STEM, Small Business workforce reshaping, as well as Outreach, and Indian Incentive Programs. Mr. Wesley was selected in to Senior Executive Service in 2014. Previously, Mr. Wesley served as the Chief Associate Director for Small Business Programs. Mr. Wesley was the Principle Advisor to the CECOM Commanding General/Head of Contracting Activity on Small Business. He also served as the primary liaison

between the Army Contracting Command-Aberdeen Proving Ground and CECOM/C4ISR. He also served as the primary Program Manager for CECOM's Small Business and HBCU/MI program.

Mr. Wesley has received an Army Civilian Achievement Medal for his accomplishments while serving as a senior Contract Specialist for the Army Contracting Agency Fort McPherson, Georgia. He also received several commendations while serving as the Deputy for Small Business Programs at Program Executive Office Simulation Training and CECOM/C4ISR. He utilizes this experience in working with diverse customers, to incorporate effective small business participation in their acquisition strategies.

Mr. Wesley earned a Bachelor degree in Business Administration from Wayland Baptist University in 2001 and a Master degree in Business Administration from Alaska Pacific University in 2002. He is Level III DAWIA Contracting Certified and is a member of the Army Acquisition Corps. Mr. Wesley is also a proud Veteran of the United States Air Force.



**Ms. Mary Ellen Fraser**  
**Director, Government Relations**  
**Lockheed Martin Corporation Government Affairs**

Mary Ellen Fraser is a Director of Government Relations in the Washington Operations of Lockheed Martin. She specializes in all matters related to acquisition policy. In this position she advocates before the Executive and Legislative branch on acquisition issues related to Lockheed Martin programs, including major defense acquisition programs, services, and information technology. She is also responsible for representing Lockheed Martin on matters relating to the defense industrial base, small businesses, the supply chain and intellectual property.

Prior to joining Lockheed Martin, she worked at the law firm McKenna & Long & Aldridge, LLP, where she was both a government contracts attorney and government affairs specialist. From 1999 – 2006 she worked for the House Armed Services Committee. While with the committee she worked on matters related to acquisition policy, environmental policy, and civilian personnel matters. She also focused on logistics and maintenance issues while the staff director to the Readiness Subcommittee. Prior to her experience on Capitol Hill, Ms. Fraser worked as a procurement attorney for the Navy, Office of General Counsel.

She spent five years with the Office of Naval Research and three years with the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs.

A native of Massachusetts, she graduated from Boston College in 1987 with a B.S. in Biology. She was then a high school math and science teacher for one year before attending law school at Catholic University, in Washington, D.C. She graduated with a J.D. in 1991.



**Ms. Emily Harman**  
**Director, Office of Small Business Programs**  
**Department of the Navy**

Ms. Emily Harman is the Director, Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) for the Department of the Navy (DON) serving as chief advisor to the Secretary on all small business matters. She is responsible for small business acquisition policy and strategic initiatives.

Ms. Harman joined the Secretary of the Navy Staff as member of the Senior Executive Service in August 2015 and has over 30 years of federal service. Prior to receiving this appointment she served as Associate Director of the Naval Aviation Systems Command's (NAVAIR) OSBP from November 2005 to August 2015.

Ms. Harman's previous experience includes serving as a Division Director in the Major Weapons System for Air-Antisubmarine Warfare, Assault, Special Mission Programs Contracts Department and as the Multi-Mission Helicopters Program Office's (PMA-299) Contracting Officer. Ms. Harman has NAVAIR experience as a Services Contracting Officer, as well as Contracting Officer for the AV-8B Weapon Systems Program Office (PMA-257).

Prior to joining NAVAIR in 1997, Ms. Harman served as a Contracting Officer for the Naval Supply Systems Command's (NAVSUP) Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC), Norfolk Detachment Washington. Ms. Harman served as a Supply Corps Officer in the Navy from 1985-1992 and retired from the Naval Reserves. She served onboard the USS Emory S. Land (AS-39) and earned the Supply Corps Surface Warfare pin. Her other duty stations include: Supreme Allied Command Atlantic, Commander in Chief U. S. Atlantic Fleet, United States Naval Academy, and FISC Norfolk Detachment Washington.

Ms. Harman is a member of the DoD Acquisition Professional Community and is Level III certified in Contracting. A Certified Professional Contracts Manager through the National Contract Management Association, she holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Science from the United States Naval Academy, and a Master's degree in Management/Acquisition and Contract Management from the Florida Institute of Technology. Ms. Harman is a member of Leadership Southern Maryland's Class of 2010.

Ms. Harman is a graduate of NAVSUP's Corporate Management Development Program, NAVAIR's Senior Executive Leadership Development Program, and the Federal Executive Institute. Ms. Harman has a number of personal and command decorations including the DON's Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, DON's FY2010 Acquisition Excellence Award, and the 2015 Public Servant Award from the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce.



**Ms. Pamela Callicutt**  
**Deputy Director**  
**Army Office of Small Business Programs**

In her current role, Ms. Callicutt serves as the senior advisor to the Director, Army Office of Small Business Programs, and provides leadership, guidance and oversight to a network of over 200 contracting professionals that serve throughout the Army as Small Business Specialists.

Ms. Callicutt is retired Air Force, with thirty-three years of acquisition experience. She served twenty years in the U. S. Air Force as an acquisition professional. She is a recent graduate of the National Defense University, Eisenhower School. Her last assignment within the Department of the Army was an action officer for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Procurement, Services Directorate. In this position, she was responsible for reviewing all acquisition strategies for services valued at \$250 million and above and providing a recommendation to the Army and DoD Senior leadership on approval or disapproval.



**Mr. Lee Rosenberg**  
**Director, Small Business Programs**  
**Missile Defense Agency**

Mr. Lee Rosenberg is the Director for Small Business Programs at the Missile Defense Agency (MDA). He has responsibility for the development and oversight of MDA's small business program and acts as an advocate for the utilization of small businesses throughout the Agency. His responsibilities also include oversight of MDA's Small Business Program, the Agency's small business outreach efforts and the Agency's Mentor-Protégé Program.

Prior to assuming his current position, Mr. Rosenberg was assigned within the MDA Contracts Directorate as part of the Acquisition Support Cadre, where he assisted various MDA program offices in developing innovative acquisition strategies to satisfy program requirements.

Mr. Rosenberg spent 21 years as an Army Officer serving in a variety of operational and acquisition positions including holding an unlimited warrant as a contracting officer and buying section chief with the U. S. Army Troop Support Command; serving as the competition advocate for the Defense Contract Administrative Region-St. Louis; performing duties as a Defense Information Systems Agency procurement staff officer responsible for migrating legacy systems into an integrated open system architecture; assignment as an investigative officer and acquisition advisor to the U.S. Army Inspector General; and assignment as an acquisition reform staff officer within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research, Development and Acquisition.

Upon his retirement from the Army in 1997, Mr. Rosenberg worked for a variety of small and large business contractors supporting the Department of Defense and various Military Services. He authored and presented acquisition reform classes to Government contracting and acquisition personnel and provided acquisition support services to several Army and Marine Corps programs located in the U.S. Army Program Manager for Mines, Countermine and Demolitions and the Office of Naval Research. Additionally he authored several case studies utilized in the PMT 401 course, the capstone acquisition course, taught in the Defense Acquisition University and supported the Department of Defense Acquisition Reform Office.

Mr. Rosenberg re-entered government service as a Department of Defense civilian in 2003 while working at MDA.





**Mr. Mark Teskey**  
**Director**  
**Air Force Small Business Programs**

Mark Teskey, a member of the Senior Executive Service, is the Director of Air Force Small Business Programs, located in the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. He is responsible for policy, advocacy, execution, and advice pertaining to Small Business Programs and personnel throughout the department.

Mr. Teskey entered the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Clemson University and was commissioned upon graduation in 1986. He entered the Educational Delay program, attended the University of South Carolina School of Law, and was accepted into the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps in 1989. After retiring from active duty, he served in the Department of the Interior as the Associate Solicitor for General Law and as the Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization.

Prior to joining the Department of the Interior, Mr. Teskey served over 23 years in the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps specializing in Government Acquisition Law and National Security issues. His final active duty assignment was as the Director of Commercial Law and Litigation for the Air Force, building a worldwide organization to represent Air Force acquisition law and litigation interests from an enterprise perspective in the acquisition law, litigation, and personnel policy areas. He served in a wide variety of base and headquarters level leadership positions. He assumed his current position in April 2014.



**Ms. Tatia Evelyn-Bellamy**  
**Director, Small Business Division and Center**  
**Small Business Ombudsman**  
**Defense Contract Management Agency**

Ms. Tatia Evelyn-Bellamy currently serves as the Small Business Programs Division and Center Director for the Defense Contract Management Agency. She also serves as the DCMA Small Business Ombudsman, advocating the concerns of small businesses. Ms. Evelyn-Bellamy is responsible for developing the agency's small business policies, overseeing the small business contractor subcontracting program that performs compliance reviews for the Department of Defense, management and support of both the Mentor Protégé Pilot Program and Comprehensive Subcontract Plan Test Program for the Department of Defense, Office of Small Business Programs; and providing support to Defense Agencies in the review evaluation, and approval of various types of subcontracting plans.

Ms. Evelyn-Bellamy has over 25 years of acquisition experience with the Department of Defense and the Federal government. She has held a variety of positions to include Supervisory Procurement Analyst and Contract Specialist; Deputy Director; Contracting Officer; Senior Action Officer; Team Leader; and Grants Officer. Her previous assignments include serving as the DCMA DAR Council Representative, Fort Lee, VA; Deputy Director of the Procurement Management Division, USDA Rural Development, Washington D.C.; Senior Staff Officer, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Acquisition – SAF/AQC, Pentagon; Branch Chief, Math & Science Division of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Ballston, VA; and Lead Contracting Officer, Hanscom AFB, MA.



**Ms. Jackie Robinson-Burnette, SES**  
**Associate Administrator of Business Development**  
**Headquarters, U.S. Small Business Administration**

Jackie was inducted into Senior Executive Service as the Associate Administrator of Business Development with the U.S. Small Business Administration on December 15, 2014. She is the certifying official for all 8(a) applicants and is responsible for training and development of 8(a) firms, the Mentor Protégé Program, and the 7j Small Disadvantaged Business Training Program.

With a high priority to streamline the 8(a) application process she plans to eliminate unnecessarily burdensome processes. She is motivating her team to provide Smart, Bold, and Accessible (SBA) customer service to small businesses across the country -- the best customer service the federal government has to offer.

Jackie was invited to participate in a small group of high achieving senior executives that are responsible for achieving 23 Agency Priority Goals during President Obama's last 15 months in office. The White House hosted the group of leaders on October 9, 2015 launching the Leaders Delivery Network (LDN). The network will connect members as they provide insight and expertise. In 2014, Jackie served the Pentagon as deputy to the Secretary of the Army Office of Small Business Programs. In this position with over \$16 billion in annual contract awards to small firms, Jackie managed the largest federal small business contracting program in the country. She provided leadership and guidance to a network of over 200 military and civilian small business specialists.

From 2010 – 2013, Jackie led the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Small Business Program that has the capacity of \$6 billion dollars. She was principal advisor to the Commander and Head of Contracting Activity on small business matters. Jackie provided senior leadership and direction to an integrated network of over 70 Contract Specialists that served as USACE Small Business Specialists throughout the United States. Within her first year of leadership, she motivated USACE to exceed every small business goal for the first time in its history. USACE continued to excel every year thereafter winning numerous awards to include SB Program of the Year, SDVOSB Program of the Year, and her staff earned several Secretary of the Army Small Business Specialist of the Year awards. From 2008-2010, Jackie served as a Deputy Associate Director for Small Business Program and was responsible for the strategic vision and exigent stand up for the new US Army Contracting Command (ACC), Office of Small Business Programs.

She graduated from the University of Maryland (UMUC) with a BS in Business Management. She is DAWIA Certified Level III in Contracting. She began her career as a Department of the Army Contracting Intern in 1990. For many years, she served as a contracting officer with an unlimited warrant. Her Army contracting service includes duty in the Washington DC metro area, Korea, Germany, and short temporary duty in war torn areas like Bosnia, Kosovo, Sarajevo, Tuzla, Hungary, and Tazsar.

Jackie comes from a family of small business owners (beauty shops and wig stores). She is married to a retired Army Medical Service Corps Officer and they have 3 daughters. They are active members in their community and church. From 2007 to 2014, they served as foster parents in Northern Virginia for several at-risk teen moms with babies.



**Mr. Scott Denniston**  
**Executive Director**  
**National Veteran Small Business Coalition**

Mr. Scott Denniston is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Scott Group of Virginia, LLC. The Scott Group provides strategic business development services to small businesses in the Federal marketplace. Scott Group also facilitates partnerships and alliances between large and small businesses to compete on Federal contract opportunities as well as assist large businesses to establish world class subcontracting programs and identify potential small business subcontractors and partners.

Mr. Denniston is also Executive Director of the National Veteran Small Business Coalition whose mission is to transition veterans into business owners and ensure the Federal acquisition field is fair for all veteran owned small businesses. Mr. Denniston serves on the Humana Veterans Advisory Board which provides guidance to Human Healthcare Services Inc. on delivering innovative healthcare solutions to our Nation's veterans. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the American Freedom Foundation and the American Small Business Coalition.

Previously, Mr. Denniston was the Director, Office of Small Business Programs and the Center for Veterans Enterprise at the Department of Veterans Affairs. During his tenure VA was a leader in awards to all categories of small businesses consistently spending over \$3 billion with small business. During his tenure, VA was consistently graded "green" by the Small Business Administration and the US House of Representatives Small Business Committee. Scott began his government career with the Customs Service. He also held numerous management positions with the Small Business Administration. He is also active in the National Contract Management Association (NCMA), the National Defense Industry Association (NDIA), and is past chair of the Small Business Committee of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA).

Mr. Denniston is a nationally recognized advocate for veteran entrepreneurs. In 1998 he was appointed to the Congressional Commission on Service Members and Veterans Transition Assistance, where he developed recommendations for enhancing and expanding support for veteran business owners. Many of those recommendations were incorporated into Public Law 106-50, the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Act of 1999, and Public Law 108-183, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003. He established the Center for Veterans Enterprise, a VA organization dedicated to providing support to veterans interested in entrepreneurship.

In March 2005, Mr. Denniston received the prestigious "Federal 100 Award" from Federal Computer Week for developing the VETBIZ website and the Vendor Information Pages data base of veteran owned small businesses. In June 2008, he received the "Leadership Award" from the Association for Federal Information Resources Management (AFFIRM), for his work on the GSA "VETS GWAC". In October 2008, Scott received the "Leadership Award" from the Parren J. Mitchell Foundation for his years of support to the minority small business community. In October 2008, he also received the "Patriot Award" from the American Freedom Foundation for his efforts on behalf of veterans.

He was born in Somerville, New Jersey. He received a B.A. degree in Economics from Waynesburg College and a M.S. degree in Government from Southern Illinois University. He is also a veteran, having served in the US Army.



**Ms. Alejandra Castillo**  
**National Director**  
**Minority Business Development Agency**

In 2014, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker appointed Ms. Alejandro Castillo to serve as the National Director of the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA). Ms. Castillo is the first Hispanic-American woman to lead the Agency since its creation. In this capacity, Ms. Castillo directs the Agency's strategic efforts to enhance the growth and global competitiveness of minority business enterprises (MBEs). Under Ms. Castillo's leadership, the Agency has expanded its effort to help MBEs grow and succeed through access to capital, access to contract, and access to business opportunities both domestically and abroad. Prior to assuming this role, she served as National

Deputy Director managing the Agency's day-to-day operations and its national network of 44 business centers.

Under the Obama Administration, MBDA has assisted minority-owned firms in obtaining nearly \$15 billion in contracts and capital and creating and saving over 33,000 new jobs. She has forged important strategic stakeholder relations and key public-private partnerships.

Ms. Castillo first joined the Department of Commerce in 2008 as a Special Advisor to the Under Secretary for the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration (ITA). In this capacity, she was responsible for business outreach and intergovernmental affairs, as well as assisting in the development of policy initiatives geared at trade promotion and enforcement of U.S. trade laws.

A practicing attorney for several years, Ms. Castillo has worked in the private, government and non profit sector. Prior to joining the Obama Administration, Ms. Castillo served as the Executive Director of the Hispanic National Bar Association {HNBA} headquartered in Washington DC. During her tenure at HNBA, she was instrumental in working with the White House, and non-profit organizations, such as the Latinos for a Fair Judiciary, in support of the nomination and confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Ms. Castillo served as a member of the Clinton Administration as a Senior Policy Analyst to the Deputy Director at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, and was responsible for developing and analyzing White House initiatives on anti-drug traffic end interdiction, anti-money laundering policies, as well as drug prevention and treatment programs.

A native of New York, Ms. Castillo holds a Bachelor Degree of Arts from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in economics and political science. Ms. Castillo holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy from the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin; and also holds a Juris Doctorate Degree from American University-Washington College of Law. Ms. Castillo is active in a number of civic and professional organizations, including: The Hispanic National Bar Association, the Hispanic Bar Association of DC, the American Bar Association, and the American Jewish Committee. She also serves as a Board Trustee for the University of the District of Columbia. In 2010, Hispanic Business Magazine recognized Ms. Castillo among the Top 100 Influential Latinos in the U.S. and she received the 2010 Rising Star Award by the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia.



**Mr. Tom Leney**  
**Executive Director, Small and Veteran Business Programs**  
**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Mr. Thomas (Tom) Leney serves as the Executive Director for Small and Veteran Business Programs at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, where he is responsible for programs that promote small business participation in VA procurements, with special emphasis on Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses and Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs and VOSBs). Mr. Leney is a member of the United States Senior Executive Service.

Prior to his current government service, Mr. Leney gained practical insight into the opportunities and challenges facing small businesses as a senior executive in two successful small businesses. His personal experiences as a government contractor have enabled Mr. Leney to mentor small businesses on the complexities of the federal acquisition process. His earlier work at Winrock International and the United Nations Foundation overseeing the development of projects to support the U.S. Government and the United Nations around the world has given him an understanding of the importance and the complexities of program and partnership development on many levels.

Mr. Leney is a Veteran of the United States Army, serving from 1973 to 1995. Among his military assignments, he led an armored cavalry squadron in the Persian Gulf War of 1991 and was the Chief, Strategic Plans and Policy for the Department of the Army. He holds a Master of Public Policy degree from Harvard University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Georgetown University. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the U.S. Military Academy.



**Ms. Diane Dempsey**  
**NDIA TRIAD Co-Chair**  
**Director, Socio Economic Programs**  
**BAE Systems**

Ms. Dempsey is a frequent speaker at small business conferences across the United States. She has been recognized for her advocacy, receiving several awards:

- Directors Award – OSDBU – Environmental Protection Agency – November 2004
- VA Minority Supplier Development Council – Advocate of the Year – December 2004
- VA Minority Supplier Development Council – Advocate of the Year – December 2006
- Community Business Partnership – Excellence Award – 2008
- Parren Mitchell Founder’s Award – 2008
- Powerful Minority Woman in Business Award – MEA Magazine – 2010
- 2010 SBA Metropolitan District, Veteran Advocate
- 2011 Chairman’s Challenge Award, VA Minority Supplier Development Council.
- 2012 DiversityBusiness.com Top Champions Award
- 2013 Presidents Award – MD/DC Minority Supplier Development Council
- 2013 Outstanding Leadership Award – VA Minority Supplier Development Council
- 2014 Minority Business Development Agency Distinguished Supplier Diversity Award

Ms. Dempsey’s career spans over 25 years in the field of procurement, subcontracts and supplier diversity. Currently the Director, Socio Economic Business Programs at BAE Systems Intelligence & Security, Ms. Dempsey has also been a small business advocate for the Hughes Corporation, Northrop Grumman, DynCorp, and CSC. She is active in the small business community, serving as the Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council, Second Vice Chair, former Chair, VA Minority Supplier Development Council and current Chair, Community Business Partnership, Board of Directors. She has co-chaired the Veterans in Business Conference for eight consecutive years. She is Co-Chair for the TRIAD Organization and active in both AFCEA and NDIA Small Business Committees.

Ms. Dempsey is a former adjunct professor teaching a variety of business and acquisition classes at Northern VA Community College and Stratford University for five years. She was named 2005 Instructor of the Year, Stratford University. She is also an instructor for the Alliance of Supplier Diversity Professionals Certification Program. She received her B.S. from Mary Washington College, Certificate in Contracts & Procurements, University of Virginia, and Masters Certificate in Procurement & Supply Chain Management, MS and MBA from the University of Maryland. She is also a certified supplier diversity professional.

