Brief Overview of TRIAD

The TRI-Association Small Business Advisory Panel [TRI-AD] was formed in 1967 to coordinate and leverage the small business subcontracting enhancement efforts of subcontracting representatives of three industry associations.

Each of the founding organizations designates an individual to serve as its representative. Collectively, these individuals form the organizations’ leadership team. The team’s primary responsibilities include organizing and conducting council meetings, coordinating the organizations advocacy activities, and acting as council liaison with federal government officials regarding small business related legislation, policy, etc.

When the organization was formed, the group’s membership base consisted of small business professionals from major corporations and members or associate members of its founding/sponsoring organizations.

The organization is sponsored by AIA and NDIA, holding two general meetings per year – fall and winter. These meetings provide an opportunity for members to exchange small business related “best practices” and facilitate broad-based government - industry communications, cooperation, and understanding. The meetings are led by co-chairs, Benita Fortner and Diane Dempsey. Selection of agenda topics is at the discretion of the meeting leader; however, each meeting includes a federal government agency discussion/briefing component.
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 am - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>REGISTRATION OPEN</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 am - 8:00 am</td>
<td>CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST</td>
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<td>8:00 am - 8:30 am</td>
<td>WELCOME</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Ms. Diane Dempsey, TRIAD Co-Chair; Director, Socio Economic Programs, BAE Systems</td>
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<td>• Pledge of Allegiance</td>
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<td>• Introductions of TRIAD Members and Guests</td>
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<td>8:30 am - 9:00 am</td>
<td>OSD UPDATE</td>
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<td>• Mr. Kenyata Wesley, Acting Director, DoD Office of Small Business Programs</td>
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<td>9:00 am - 10:15 am</td>
<td>CUSTOMER PANEL</td>
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<td>• Ms. Benita Fortner, TRIAD Co-Chair; Director, Supplier Diversity, The Raytheon Company</td>
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<td>• Ms. Emily Harman, Director, Office of Small Business Programs, U.S. Navy</td>
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<td>• Mr. Tommy Marks, Director, Office of Small Business Programs, U.S. Army</td>
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<td>• Ms. Amy Sajda, Director, Small Business Programs, Defense Logistics Agency</td>
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<td>• Mr. Mark Teskey, Director, Small Business Programs, U.S. Air Force</td>
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<td>• Ms. Genna Wooten, Deputy Director, Missile Defense Agency OSBP</td>
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<td>10:15 am - 10:30 am</td>
<td>NETWORKING BREAK</td>
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<td>10:30 am - 10:50 am</td>
<td>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS</td>
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<td>• Mr. Tom Leney, Executive Director, Small and Veteran Business Programs, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs</td>
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<td>10:50 am - 11:15 am</td>
<td>DCMA UPDATE</td>
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<td>• Ms. Tatia Evelyn-Bellamy, Director, Small Business Division and Center, Small Business Ombudsman</td>
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<td>• Defense Contract Management Agency</td>
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<td>11:15 am - 11:30 am</td>
<td>OVERVIEW: VETERAN INSTITUTE FOR PROCUREMENT (VIP)</td>
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<td>• Ms. Barbara Ashe, National Director, Veteran Institute for Procurement</td>
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<td>11:30 am - 12:15 pm</td>
<td>U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION</td>
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<td>• Mr. Sean Crean, Director, Office of Government Contracting, U.S. Small Business Administration</td>
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<td>12:15 pm - 1:20 pm</td>
<td>NETWORKING LUNCHEON</td>
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<td>1:20 pm - 1:50 pm</td>
<td>MENTOR PROTÉGÉ PROGRAM</td>
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<td>• Mr. Rob Stewart, Jr., Assistant Director Acquisition Compliance &amp; Support, OSD AT&amp;L Office of Small Business Programs</td>
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<td>1:50 pm - 3:00 pm</td>
<td>NUNN PERRY AWARD WINNER PANEL</td>
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<td>• Ms. Joanne Arvizu, Manager, Supplier Diversity Program, Raytheon Company</td>
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<td>• Mr. Wayne Evans, Director, Mentor-Protégé Program, George Mason University</td>
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<td>• Ms. Chireda Gaither, Manager, Supplier Diversity, CSC</td>
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<td>• Ms. Daphne Hill, Small Business Liaison Officer &amp; Manager, Mentor-Protégé Programs, TASC, Inc.</td>
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<td>• Mr. Wayne Pizer, Vice President, Small Business Office, L-3 National Security Solutions</td>
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<td>3:00 pm - 3:15 pm</td>
<td>NETWORKING BREAK</td>
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<td>3:15 pm - 3:30 pm</td>
<td>NATIONAL VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS COALITION</td>
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<td>• Mr. Scott Denniston, Executive Director, National Veteran Small Business Coalition</td>
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3:30 pm - 3:45 pm  SUCCESS STORY SPOTLIGHT  
  ▶ Mr. Tracy Solomon, President & CEO, Tevet, LLC

3:45 pm - 4:15 pm  NDIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE  
  ▶ Mr. Jimmy Thomas, Director, Legislative Policy, NDIA

4:15 pm - 4:30 pm  LGBT INITIATIVE  
  ▶ Ms. Melissa Poli, Small Business Liaison Officer (SBLO), Global Supplier Diversity Programs, Northrop Grumman Corporation

4:30 pm - 4:45 pm  VETERANS BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTERS  
  ▶ Mr. Charles McCaffrey, Director, Veterans Business Outreach Center, Community Business Partnership

4:45 pm - 5:00 pm  ANNOUNCEMENTS  
  ▶ ASDP - Training and Certification Update  
  ▶ Winter TRIAD  
  ▶ National 8(a) Conference  
  ▶ RES

5:00 pm  CLOSING REMARKS & ADJOURN  
  ▶ Ms. Diane Dempsey, TRIAD Co-Chair, Director, Socio Economic Programs, BAE Systems
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 Distinguished Supplier Diversity Award Minority Business Development Agency
- 2015 Murray Schooner Life Time Achievement Award, Alliance of Supplier Diversity Professionals
- 2015 MEA Magazine – Supplier Diversity Executive of the Year 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 from 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 (CSDP).
Mr. Kenyata Wesley
Acting Director, Office of Small Business Programs
Department of Defense

Mr. Kenyata Wesley is currently the Acting Director for the Office of Small Business Programs. Mr. Wesley is responsible for the oversight of DoD Small Business Program and Policy to include, DoD SBIR/STTR, Rapid Innovation Fund, Mentor Protégé, STEM, Small Business workforce reshaping, as well as Outreach, and Indian Incentive Programs. Mr. Wesley was selected into 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 served as the primary program manager for CECOM’s Small Business and HBCU/MI program. He had the primary responsibility working with AMC and the Army Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) to establish and monitor goals and their achievement.

Prior to being selected for the CECOM/C4ISR position, Mr. Wesley served as Director/Chief of Contracting for Letterkenny Army Depot. He has held various other assignments to include Deputy for Small Business Programs for PEOSTRI, Contract Specialist for the U.S. Navy NAVFAC at Camp Lejune, North Carolina; Contracting Officer for the Corps of Engineers to include multiple temporary assignments in a contingency environment, Senior Contract Specialist for both DLA and Fort McPherson, Georgia. He has also served as a cost price analyst for Tooele Army Depot Deseret Complex, in Stockton, Utah.

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. These assignments have broadened his knowledge of the contracting and acquisition career fields to include Small Business. 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 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. Benita Fortner
Director, Supplier Diversity
Raytheon Company

Ms. Benita Fortner is 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 2014 sales of $23 billion and 61,000 employees worldwide, is a technology and innovation leader specializing in defense, security and civil markets throughout the world. Raytheon is headquartered in Waltham, Mass.

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.

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 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.

Fortner 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 Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council (GNEMSDC), the Women’s Business Enterprise National Council, the Business Consortium Fund, and the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIxED) Resource Council.

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 degree in law and a Juris Doctor degree from Golden West University and completed Raytheon’s Business Leadership Program.
Ms. Emily Harman
Director, Office of Small Business Programs
U.S. 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.
Mr. Tommy Marks
Director, Office of Small Business Programs
U.S. Army

Mr. Tommy Marks was appointed the Director for Army Small Business Programs on April 19, 2015. In this position, he serves as the Army’s lead for small business policy, goals and procedures and represents the Secretary of the Army at congressional committee and subcommittee hearings on small business, historically black colleges and universities/minority institutions (HBCU/MI), and other small business matters. Mr. Marks serves as the focal point in responding to industrial, congressional, and individual inquiries on small business, HBCUs/MI, economic utilization and other business matters. He represents the Army in inter-agency communication with the Small Business Administration, the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, the Minority Business Development Agency (Department of Commerce), and other agencies and presidential commissions.

Career Chronology
Apr 2015 – Present: Director, Small Business Programs, HQDA, Office of the Secretary of the Army, Pentagon
Nov 2012 – Apr 2015: Executive Director for Acquisition Services, HQDA, ASAALT, DASA (P), Arlington, Va.
Jan 2007 – Jan 2011: Deputy Program Director-Kuwait, Director of Operations and Plans and Deputy to the Executive Director for LOGCAP, U.S. Army Sustainment Command, Rock Island, IL
Nov 2003 – Nov 2005: Program Manager-Forward/Senior Associate (LOGCAP), deployed to Kuwait, SYTEX, Inc., Newington, VA
Aug 1996 – May 2001: Director of Leadership Training/Contract Officer Representative, U.S. Army and Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA. Retired from Active Duty at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel following 24 years of service.
Jun 1994 – Jun 1996: Director of Military Equal Opportunity Programs, Headquarters Third Corps, Fort Hood, TX
Jun 1992 – May 1994: Director of Logistics – Chief of Staff, Army Operations and Training Organization, Fort Hood, TX
Sep 1990 – Jan 1991: Contract Administration Officer, Third Army, Dharahan, Saudi Arabia
Jan 1990 – Sep 1990: Team Chief – Contract Administration, Communications and Electronics Command, Ft Monmouth, NJ
Jan 1978 – Aug 1989: Numerous Organizational Planning and Operations Assignments, United States Army

College
MA, National Security and Strategic Studies, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, 1992
MS, Acquisition Management, Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Florida, 1988
BS, Health and Physical Education, McNeese State University, Lake Charles, Louisiana, 1977
Ms. Amy Sajda  
**Director, Small Business Programs**  
**Defense Logistics Agency**

Ms. Sajda is the Director of Small Business Programs for the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). In this role, she acts as the principal advisor and assistant to the Director, DLA, and agency leadership, on all matters relating to small business, and to maximize the contributions of small business in DLA acquisitions. She provides small business advocacy and promotes small business utilization to strengthen the competency, commitment, and capability of the industrial base that fulfills DLA’s mission as America’s Combat Logistics Support Agency. In addition, she is delegated cooperative agreement authority to carry out the Procurement Technical Assistance (PTA) Program.

Ms. Sajda previously served as the DLA Policy member of the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council; and as the Division Chief of Acquisition Operations within DLA Acquisition; the Department of Defense Pillar Lead implementing the Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC) 2005 decision to transfer procurement management and related support functions for Depot-Level Reparables from the Military Services to DLA.

Ms. Sajda is Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) Level III Certified in the Contracting career field. Ms. Sajda holds a Masters of Business Administration Degree from the University of Phoenix; a Bachelor of Arts degree from Glassboro State College (now Rowan University) in Communications with a concentration in Public Relations; and an Associate in Arts degree from Camden County Community College, New Jersey.

Mr. Mark Teskey  
**Director, Small Business Programs**  
**U.S. Air Force**

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

Mr. Thomas (Tom) J. 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. Genna Wooten
Deputy Director
Office of Small Business Programs
Missile Defense Agency

Ms. Genna Wooten joined the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) in March of 2011 as the MDA OSBP Deputy Director. Her responsibilities include advocating for the utilization of small businesses throughout the Agency and providing oversight and support for MDA’s small business programs.

Prior to joining MDA OSBP, Ms. Wooten served as the Contracting Officer for the MDA Terminal High Altitude Area Defense Program Office where she was responsible for all contracting activities related to the Fire Unit Fielding contract to provide the Army with a rapidly deployable ground-based missile defense component. She also served as the Contracting Officer for the MDA Targets and Countermeasures Office where she was responsible for contracting activities to design, develop, and provide qualified testing of targets that provides threat challenges to the missile defense system.

Prior to joining MDA, Ms. Wooten served as a Contracting Officer for the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command from 1998-2006 and served as a Contract Specialist for the Army Acquisition Center for over 7 years.

Ms. Wooten earned a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Athens College. She is Level III DAWIA Contracting Certified and is a member of the Army Acquisition Corps.
Ms. Tatia Evelyn-Bellamy
Small Business Programs Division and Center Director
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 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. She also serves as the DCMA Small Business Ombudsman, advocating the concerns of small businesses.

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. Barbara Ashe
National Director
Veteran Institute for Procurement

As the President of the Montgomery County Chamber Community Foundation, Barbara Ashe launched the Veteran Institute for Procurement (VIP) in 2009 and oversees strategic development of the program. VIP expanded nationally in 2011 and has provided almost 500 veterans the professional training they need to successfully compete and perform in federal government marketplace.

For her work to advance small business opportunities for veterans, the Small Business Administration named Ms. Ashe the Veterans Business Champion in the Washington Metro Area as well as its surrounding five-state region. In addition to the VIP program, the Foundation focuses on public safety, economic development, and launched a Green Business Certification Program in 2009.

Ms. Ashe also serves as Executive Vice President of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce where she oversees the Chamber’s programming in the area of government contracting and works closely with the President in the strategic development of the Chamber’s programs, events, Board of Directors, and overall management of the organization.

Earlier in her career she was the Baltimore Area Manager at the Burroughs Corporation, which after its purchase of Sperry became the Unisys Corporation.
Mr. Seán Crean  
**Director, Office of Government Contracting**  
**U.S. Small Business Administration**

Mr. Seán Crean is the Director, Office of Government Contracting (GC) for the U.S. Small Business Administration. He serves as the Agency’s chief advisor to oversee execution of all federal contracting programs designed to promote small business and associated socio-economic opportunities throughout the federal government. He is responsible for small business strategic acquisition initiatives.

Prior to joining SBA, Mr. Crean served the Department of the Navy at the Executive level as Director, Office of Small Business Programs and as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Acquisition and Logistics Management. In both positions he was responsible for influencing the Department’s annual $80 Billion acquisition and procurement strategies. A member of the Senior Executive Service, he has over 36 years of uniform and civilian federal service including 19 years as the senior procurement analyst for SBA’s Office of Government Contracting Area I and serving five times in command during his distinguished military career.

Mr. Crean’s combined military and civil service careers have provided complimentary and extensive leadership responsibilities in service to the country; retiring with the grade of Rear Admiral (two star) in the Navy Supply Corps. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business management and marine transportation from the State University of New York Maritime College and a Master of Business Administration degree from New Hampshire College’s graduate school of business.

Among his decorations are the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit and the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award. He is a member of the Defense Acquisition Corps and is DAWIA Level III Contracting certified.
Mr. Rob Stewart, Jr.
Assistant Director Acquisition Compliance & Support
OSD AT&L Office of Small Business Programs

Mr. Stewart currently serves as the Assistant Director of Acquisition Compliance & Support for the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Acquisition, Technology & Logistics (OSD AT&L), Office of Small Business Programs. As the principle acquisition advisor to the Director of the Office of Small Business programs, he is charged with developing, implementing and executing, small business acquisition regulation & policy changes and updates for Major Defense Acquisition Programs (MDAPs) across the Department of Defense’s enterprise. Mr. Stewart is also the Department of Defense’s Mentor Protégé Program Manager; as the DoD MPP PM he is responsible for overall Administration and Governance of the DoD MPP. Prior to his arrival, Mr. Stewart served as a Sr. Program Analyst for the Assistant Secretary of the Navy’s Office of Acquisition and Procurement. He currently possess a Master’s of Business Administration and a Bachelor’s of Arts in Public Administration.

Mr. Stewart is a Captain in the United States Air Force Reserve, while serving as a commissioned officer; Mr. Stewart has held various assignments as a Program Manager and Contracting Officer. He has a cumulative of over 15 years of Military, Civilian, and Federal Industry experience. As a Senior acquisition program management professional, Mr. Stewart has held numerous positions across the Department of Defense; each with increasing responsibility and continued professional development.

Ms. Jo Anne Arvizu
Supplier Diversity Manager
Raytheon Company

Ms. Jo Anne N. Arvizu is the Raytheon Supplier Diversity Manager for Missile Systems. In this position, Jo Anne is responsible for the implementation and administration of the Department of Defense Comprehensive Subcontracting Plan and the Company’s Supplier Diversity Programs at Missile Systems. Jo Anne provides overall guidance and support of Company efforts to enhance the utilization of SB, SDB, WOSB, and SBHZ, VOSB, SDVOSB, and HBCU/MI concerns. She is very involved in many small business initiatives including Mentor-Protege and SBIR/STTR. Jo Anne represents Missile Systems on many committees. She is the Chair of the Minority and Small Business Alliance of Southern Arizona, Board Member of the Pacific Southwest Minority Supplier Development Council (PSWMSDC), Corporate Member of the Women’s Business Enterprise Council-West, National Association of Women Business Owners, Resource Council Member of the National Center for American Indian Economic Development (NCAI), and Tucson Service Providers. Jo Anne has received many awards of recognition including the Life-Time Achievement Award presented by the Minority and Small Business Alliance of Southern Arizona and most recently, the PSWMSDC – 2015 Chairman’s Award.

Jo Anne has gained more than 30 years of experience within the defense industry. Prior to her position in Supplier Diversity, Jo Anne has held positions in Employee Benefits, Security and Procurement within the company.

Jo Anne earned her Associate of General Studies from Pima Community College in 1991 and a Bachelor Dual Degree in Business Administration and of Arts in Management from the University of Phoenix in 1994. Jo Anne received a Master of Science Degree in Supply Chain Management from the University of San Diego in May 2004.
Mr. Wayne Evans  
Director, Mentor Protégé Program  
George Mason University

With over 20 years of experience dedicated to advancing a collaborative environment that supports small business, Mr. Wayne Evans currently serves as the Director of the Mentor Protégé Program for The Mason Enterprise Center at George Mason University. In this capacity, his professional mission continues to focus on leveraging a wealth of experience with his keen ability to develop and maintain partnerships that are mutually beneficial and sustainable.

Prior to joining George Mason University, Mr. Evans, served as a Program Manager for Northrop Grumman, a corporate arm of the Mentor Protégé program. During his tenure, Mr. Evans successfully provided leadership on Mentor Protégé agreements with government agencies including but not limited to DISA and NGA.

Mr. Evans is a graduate of the HBCU, Bowie State University and currently resides in Maryland with his wife and daughter.

Ms. Chireda Gaither  
Manager, Supplier Diversity  
CSC

Ms. Chireda Gaither is the Manager for CSC’s North American Public Sector Supplier Diversity Program. She is responsible for leading CSC’s supplier diversity initiatives for both the North America Public Sector and selected corporate business units in the U.S. Chireda and her team focus on working with small and diverse businesses in the areas of supplier diversity, mentoring, growth, development, and education. Her prior work with both large and small business enterprises enable her to have a unique perspective on how to effectively engage diverse suppliers in understanding the elements of successful partnering. Under her leadership, CSC’s Small Business and Subcontracting Program have been selected for numerous awards.
Ms. Daphne Hill
Small Business Liaison Officer & Manager, Mentor-Protégé Programs
TASC, Inc.

Ms. Daphne Hill is a Small Business Liaison Officer and the Manager, Mentor-Protégé Programs for TASC, Inc., an Engility Company. Previously an independent advisory services company, TASC, Inc. is now a part of Engility Corporation. This combined company brings together two leading and complementary businesses, creating a top-tier government services company. At TASC, Daphne manages the mentor-protégé programs under the DoD, FAA, DHS and NASA.

Daphne is a strong advocate for small business. Her experience in the human services included working for a start-up and supporting small businesses as a program manager for business councils at the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce. In 2006, Daphne served as a Vendor Outreach Liaison and SBLO at Northrop Grumman Corporation (NGC) before her transfer to TASC, Inc. following it’s divestiture from NGC. She worked in subcontracts administration for two years before returning to small business as the Corporate SBLO for TASC, Inc. in 2012. Working with the TASC team from the selection process through the establishment of the M-P Agreement to the receipt of the Nunn-Perry award has been a high point of Daphne’s time in small business with TASC. She’s proud to be a part of the Allegheny-TASC MPP team.

A native New Yorker, Daphne moved to Virginia to attend the University of Virginia and is a proud Cavalier and member of the local alumni chapter. She has a BA in Sociology and a Graduate Certificate in Procurement and Contracts Management from UVA, an MSW from Norfolk State University and an MBA from Strayer University. Daphne currently resides in Richmond, VA.

Mr. Wayne Pizer
Vice President, Small Business Office
L-3 National Security Solutions

Mr. Wayne Pizer is the Vice President of the Small Business Office at L-3 National Security Solutions (NSS), responsible for developing and executing the small business strategy for NSS. His responsibilities include identifying go-to-market small business partners, promoting small businesses, managing the highly successful mentor-protégé program, and ensuring small business compliance throughout the NSS organization. The mission of his office is to grow NSS revenue through partnerships with small businesses.

Mr. Pizer has been with L-3 for over 7 years. During his tenure, his office has received numerous small business awards, including the 2014 Nunn-Perry Award and two DoD Prime Subcontractor of the Year Awards in recognition of its support for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs). His office is a five-time winner of the Champions of Veteran Enterprise Award from the National Veteran Small Business Coalition, as well as the recipient of the Montgomery County Prime Partner of the Year award for 2013, in recognition of its active support of the National Center for the Veteran Institute for Procurement (VIP).

Prior to joining L-3, Mr. Pizer held several positions during a nine-year career at IBM, where he led its Mentor-Protégé and Strategic Alliance programs for federal customers.

Mr. Pizer holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from American University and a Master in Business Administration from American University. He is a certified Project Management Professional and holds an SAP certification in Production Planning.
Mr. Scott F. 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 U.S. Army.
Mr. Tracy Solomon
President and CEO
TEVET, LLC

Mr. Tracy Solomon is Founder, President and CEO of TEVET, LLC, headquartered out of Greeneville, Tennessee. Under his leadership, Mr. Solomon has taken TEVET from conception, in his basement, to a company producing over $100M dollars in revenue in 2014. He has positioned TEVET as a value-add, customer centric reseller providing electronic test and measurement equipment to the federal government, including all branches of the armed forces and leading prime contractors. Life sciences and chemical analysis products are also a part of TEVET’s portfolio.

Mr. Solomon’s concept of providing a resource that was a true value add to the federal government and prime contractors was born from his test equipment experience while employed at Alcatel-Lucent. As Manager of Installation logistics, he implemented strong business practices and metrics, directly resulting in a $12M dollar cost savings over a three year period. Secondly, as a Commodity Manager, Mr. Solomon was responsible for global contracts and an annual spend of $64M.

Prior to Alcatel-Lucent, Mr. Solomon was employed at Hewlett Packard in the Test and Measurement Division, known now as Agilent Technologies, and soon to be known as Keysight Technologies. He was responsible for cradle to grave life cycle management of $84M in customer owned assets.

Having enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1990 during the first Gulf War, Mr. Solomon was trained as an Aviation Electronics Technician. He soon began working and training with electronic test and measurement equipment, the very products TEVET supplies to its customer base today.

Mr. Solomon holds a Master’s Degree in Business Administration from the University of Texas at Dallas. He lives in his historic hometown of Greeneville, Tennessee with his wife, Patty, and two dogs. In his rare spare time, Mr. Solomon enjoys volunteering in his community, boating and flying.
Mr. Jimmy Thomas  
**Director, Legislative Policy**  
**NDIA**

Mr. Jimmy Thomas is the Director of Legislative Policy at the National Defense Industrial Association. He is the NDIA lead for congressional engagement and the primary point of contact for Members of Congress and their staff within the Association, with a particular focus on the House of Representatives.

Before joining NDIA, Jimmy served as the Legislative Director and National Security Policy Advisor to Congressman Duncan Hunter of California, a member of the House Armed Services Committee and Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation. In that capacity, Jimmy was responsible for all policy matters related to national security, foreign affairs, and veterans issues. He offered Congressman Hunter key advice and recommendations on matters relating to Iraq and Afghanistan, intelligence gathering and dissemination, industrial base policy, and military readiness and training, among many other policy matters.

Previously, Jimmy worked in the Administration of President George W. Bush as a Legislative Specialist in the Office of the Under Secretary for International Trade at the Department of Commerce. Jimmy managed all legislative activity for the International Trade Administration, assisted in drafting testimony for Congressional hearings, and provided strategic legislative advice to senior ITA principals.

From 2002 to 2010, Jimmy served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve with combat deployments to Iraq where he led Marines on search and recovery operations in the Al Anbar Province in western Iraq. He received numerous medals and awards, including the Marine Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter Award.

Jimmy is a graduate of the University of Dayton.

Ms. Melissa Poli  
**Small Business Liaison Officer**  
**Northrop Grumman Corporation**

Ms. Melissa Poli is the Small Business Liaison Officer for the East Coast Naval & Marine Systems Division (NMSD) in the Electronic Systems (ES) Sector at Northrop Grumman Corporation. She is responsible for the administration of the Small Business Subcontracting Program under a Master Subcontracting Plan at Maritime Systems in Charlottesville, VA as well as general oversight and implementation of the Small Business Program under the ES Comprehensive Subcontracting Plan at Undersea Systems in Annapolis, MD and Power & Control Systems in Sykesville, MD. Since 2013 she has also led the Northrop Grumman Corporate initiative for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender (LGBT) Supplier Inclusion.

Prior to her move to Virginia in October 2014 to take on her current role, she was hired into Northrop Grumman in 2009 as a Small Business Administrator for Navigation Systems Division in the Electronic Systems Sector in Woodland Hills, CA after graduating from California Polytechnic University Pomona with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Finance, Real Estate, & Law. She also received a Certification in Government Purchasing and Materiel Management from UCLA in 2014.
Mr. Charles McCaffrey
Director, Veterans Business Outreach Center
Community Business Partnership

Mr. Charles McCaffrey has 20+ years of experience in the defense arena (both active duty military service and defense contracting). Since leaving active duty service, he has served on the President's Task Force for Cybersecurity Collaboration, been co-owner of a restaurant in State College, PA, and serves as instructor for the Boots to Business program in the National Capital region. Charles joined Community Business Partnership (CBP) in 2010 and served as Director of the Business Incubation Center (2012-2013) and Director, South Fairfax Small Business Development Center (2013-2015) before being named as Director of the Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) in June 2015. The VBOC provides entrepreneurial development services such as business training, counseling, access to capital, incubation services and networking opportunities for veterans owning or considering starting a small business.

Charles completed his MBA at George Mason University with a concentration in entrepreneurship in 2012, and was selected as the 2011 Emerging Business Student of the Year from Mason's School of Management. Also in 2011, he started his own management consulting company that assists organizations (medium and large, public and private) in developing plans and strategies that promote creative and innovative growth ideas and business solutions. Charles is a recent graduate of the Leadership Fairfax Institute (LFI) and is working towards his PhD in Socioeconomics at George Mason University. He also holds a B.S. in History, Technology and Society from Georgia Tech and an M.S. in Operations Research from the Naval Postgraduate School.