Speakers for the 21st Annual Missile Defense Agency Small Business Programs Conference

DAY 1

MS. AMY MURRAY
Director
Office of Small Business Programs
Department of Defense

Appointed in 2020, Ms. Amy Murray currently serves as the Director for the Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP). In this capacity, Ms. Murray leads a network of over 700 small business professionals and is the principal advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Policy for matters relating to small business. Small business procurements represent over 20% of all procurements within the Department, greatly influencing mission success.

Ms. Murray is responsible for integrating all DoD small business initiatives and overseeing the efficient and effective functioning of the Department's small business specialists and acquisition workforce. She provides leadership, guidance, and oversight to the Military Departments and Defense Agencies to create unity of effort in executing the DoD Small Business Strategy, which directly supports the National Security Strategy and the National Defense Strategy.

Hailing from Cincinnati, Ohio, Ms. Murray was twice elected to the Cincinnati City Council, where she was the Chairwoman of the Economic Growth and Zoning Committee and Vice-Chair of the Law and Public Safety Committee. She served on Governor Kasich’s Task Force on Police-Community Relations and is an alumna of the JoAnn Davidson Leadership Institute, Governing Magazine Women in Government Leadership Program, and the American Enterprise Leadership Network. She currently participates in the Aspen Institute’s Rodel Fellowship in Public Leadership.
Ms. Murray spent many years in the private sector before moving into government service. During her 14 years at Procter & Gamble, she managed a portfolio of businesses and developed programs, focusing chiefly on P&G’s Asian market. She then went on to found her own consulting firm, where she provided consulting services for clients focused on strategies for building successful relationships with Japanese companies.

Ms. Murray has a BA in Economics from Arizona State University and is proficient in Japanese.

Mr. Jerrol Sullivan
Acting Director
Office of Small Business Programs
Missile Defense Agency

Mr. Jerrol Sullivan is the Deputy Director for Small Business Programs at the Missile Defense Agency (MDA). Working collaboratively with Program Management Offices across MDA, as a small business advocate, he applies extensive knowledge of acquisition regulations and various types of contracts, incentive arrangements, policies and procedures to plan, develop and implement initiatives that incentivize small business utilization in acquisitions supporting MDA’s mission. He has served as the MDA Office of Small Business Subcontracting Program Manager, Outreach Manager, and the MDA Deputy Program Manager for Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs.

Mr. Sullivan has also served MDA as a Logistics Management Specialist, and Executive Officer to the Program Director for the Command and Control, Battle Management, Communications (C2BMC) Directorate, in Washington, D.C. In this role he applied expert knowledge of operations support, logistics planning, sustainment, and training to support the C2BMC Program.

Preceding his move to MDA in September 2004, Mr. Sullivan served as a Management Analyst for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Office of the Inspector General in Bethesda, Maryland. In this role he collected, reviewed, and analyzed information required to draw conclusion from analysis and synthesis of available information to make recommendations required to improve the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) operations efficiency.

Mr. Sullivan served as a Military Liaison in Warsaw, Poland. There, he assisted Poland’s military Services in meeting requirements for Poland's ascension to NATO in March 1999. His contributions were instrumental in meeting goals and objectives of the President's National Security Strategy.

Mr. Sullivan has 20 Years of military service in the United States Air Force, and 15 years of Government service.
Brian Barnes
Associate Administrator
Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization
U.S. General Services Administration

Brian Barnes serves as Associate Administrator for the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) at the U.S. General Services Administration, effective Jan. 1, 2020. As head of OSDBU, Barnes has nationwide responsibility for GSA’s small business programs and is the chief advocate for small and disadvantaged businesses. OSDBU promotes increased access to GSA’s nationwide procurement opportunities, and engages in activities that make it possible for the small business community to meet key contracting experts and receive counseling on the federal procurement process. In 2019, GSA awarded or maintained contracts with this vendor community valued at $1.8 billion for goods and services.

In addition to Brian’s current detail leading the OSDBU organization, he was appointed on January 2, 2018, as GSA’s White House liaison and advisor to the Chief of Staff. He also serves as senior advisor to the GSA Administrator and Deputy Administrator on human capital matters related to Schedule C and Non-career Senior Executive Service (SES) leaders. From the earliest days in this role, Brian was tasked with synchronizing efforts between GSA’s 11 Regional Administrators and GSA’s OSDBU to support and promote small business goals, policies, and ensure that the agency successfully achieves its small business prime and subcontracting goals.

Brian brings to the position experience in working with the supply and demand side of minority business development. Prior to joining GSA, Brian served as Assistant Portfolio Manager for a Minority Business Accelerator with the Greater Cleveland Partnership. He focused on growing the size, scale, and infrastructure of high-potential minority business enterprises (MBEs) with annual revenues of at least $2.5 million in a 16-county area of Northeast Ohio. Brian worked with the corporate community and public sector to determine the demand for business-to-business opportunities in construction, manufacturing, IT, financial services, and healthcare. Brian’s career also includes sales, minority business development, and community organizing.

Brian is a graduate of the College of Wooster, where his outstanding leadership contributions resulted in him being named by his peers as the top student leader among all graduates. The award recognized his numerous roles and engagement, including the unprecedented honor of being named chair of the college’s Judicial Board for two consecutive terms. In 2016, Brian was recognized by Crain’s Cleveland
Mary Jane Fleming
Senior procurement Business Advisor
Alabama PTAC

Mary Jane Fleming is a Senior Procurement Business Advisor with the Alabama PTAC program and has served a seven county region in northeast Alabama for over twelve years. Fleming assists small businesses with doing business with federal, state, and local governments. Assistance includes procurement readiness assessments including cyber security compliance, industry codes, vendor registrations, market research, bid notices, eligibility and requirements for SBA, VA, and state certification programs including SBA’s 8(a) business development program, HUBZone certification, the VA’s VOSB and SDVOSB verification, SBA’s SDVOSB program, WOSB program, ALDoT’s DBE program and ADECA’s MBE certification. Ms. Fleming reviews Mentor/Protégé program requirements, solicitations, proposal development, contract management, GSA schedules, Title 13 CFR regulatory information and Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) and disaster relief contracting.

Fleming graduated magna cum laude from the University of Alabama in Huntsville with a BA in History and holds a Master Certificate in Federal Contract Management from UAH. She is a Certified Procurement Professional (CPP) reaching APTAC’s highest certification. Fleming is a Certified Business Counselor by the Alabama Small Business Development Center Network who also awarded Fleming with the Alabama State Star award in 2012. In 2013 the Center for Veteran Enterprises (CVE) certified Ms. Fleming as a CVE Verification Counselor and was recertified by the VA’s OSDBU CVE program in 2019. Fleming was recognized by the Huntsville Association for Small Businesses in Advanced Technology (HASBAT) as their 2014 Small Business Advocate Award for Excellence.
Diane Knight

Chief, DA Executive Staff
Missile Defense Agency

Ms. Diane Knight has been supporting MDA Acquisition and Contracts since 2003. In her current position, she reports to the MDA Director for Acquisition (DA) and executes enterprise responsibilities that include leading the MDA Strategic Cyber Council and serving as the MDA Deputy Senior Services Manager. Ms. Knight represents MDA/DA with internal, external, and industry leaders on a variety of acquisition and program matters.

Prior to her current tenure on the DA Executive Staff, Ms. Knight served as the DA Portfolio Manager for C4ISR, Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense, and Systems Engineering, and previously served as the MDA Director of Contracting for C2BMC and Systems Engineering.

Ms. Knight is a member of the DoD Acquisition Corps, DAWIA-certified in Contracting and Program Management, a graduate of the DoD Defense Senior Leader Development Program, and a NCMA Certified Professional Contracts Manager. Ms. Knight accomplished her undergraduate and graduate education at the Pennsylvania State University, the University of Maryland, and the U.S. Army War College.

Dr. Michael Wojcik

Directorate of Acquisition Information Systems Security Manager
Missile Defense Agency
Michael Wojcik has been supporting the MDA since 2009 and has over 36 years of combined experience in program management, information technology, and cybersecurity engineering, planning, definition, design, architecture and implementation, testing and verification, and operational implementation and execution. Dr. Wojcik presently serves as the Directorate of Acquisition Information Systems Security and holds a Ph.D. in Information Technology with a specialization in Cybersecurity. Dr. Wojcik holds the Certified Information Systems Security Professional and Certified Ethical Hacker certifications and his published work includes “Network Cybersecurity Indicators: Determining Cybersecurity Indicators that Accurately Reflect the State of Cybersecurity of a Network”.

Franklin (Frank) D. Barrow
Targets and Countermeasures Program
Director of Acquisitions
Missile Defense Agency

Franklin (Frank) Barrow, Director of Targets and Countermeasures (TC) Acquisition is responsible for planning and executing threat solution requirements, future acquisitions, and contract management/executions (8 contracts) as well as managing Inter/Intra-Agency Acquisition Requirements (IARs)/Support Agreements at $150 Million annually overall comprise an organizational budget of approximately $500 Million annually and $2 Billion across the Future Years Defense Plan. Provided senior level acquisition guidance and leadership in the resolution of complex cost, programmatic, requirements, risk management, acquisition workforce resource, and contracting issues ensuring successful execution of all TC Programs within approved funding and schedule constraints. Mr. Barrow’s acquisition work force includes Military, Government Civilians, and Support Contractors.

He has responsibility for the development and oversight of the Program Office future acquisition efforts and ensures compliance with acquisition laws, regulations, and policies. His responsibilities include: initiating future acquisition strategies; developing Contract Requirement Packages, Request for Proposals, and Requests for Information to industry; executing market research actions; conducting industry day events/industry one-on-one sessions; and providing assistance to the TC leadership and Program managers on acquisition and contractual related matters. He is also responsible for providing acquisition guidance, training, document templates, and overall program support to acquisition personnel, as well as ensuring compliance to all Government Accountability Office, Federal, Department of Defense (DoD), and MDA acquisition policies.

Currently a Government Civilian since 2011, Mr. Barrow spent over 25 years as an Air Force Officer serving in a variety of command, operational, and acquisition positions with experience in Acquisition, Program, Financial, and Support/Logistics Management in the Air Force, Defense Intelligence Agency, and MDA program offices. He was involved in leading, planning, evaluating, negotiating, awarding, and executing all types of DoD contracts. Mr. Barrow has led five efforts as a Program Manager—one as a Product Support Manager. He served three years as an Air Force Program Element Monitor, submitting
and defending budgets as well as working Congressional matters. He also served on seven source selection boards (up to ACAT 1D level, Bi-National, Classified, etc.) and led on three, one of which saved the MDA approximately $1 Billion. Before his arrival in TC in November 2018, Mr. Barrow was the Chief of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) Future Acquisitions/Policy Division, MDA.

Mr. Barrow’s experience in supporting and managing acquisition life-cycle processes and activities within various phases of a program, to include but not limited to, concept development to deployment and operational support. He’s knowledgeable of actions and processes involved in solicitation and pre-award to managing, surveilling, and reporting on contract execution. Mr. Barrow applies acquisition policies to research and analyze requirements to determine feasible program execution strategies, risks, contractual application, and financial management support.

Kevin Williams

Director, Test Resources
Missile Defense Agency

Mr. Williams is responsible to the Director for Test for the planning, procurement, sustainment, modernization, and management of the Missile Defense System (MDS) test infrastructure used to support Missile Defense system- and element-level flight tests, including range facilities, fixed and mobile sensors and instrumentation, communications networks, test situational awareness tools, and provide trained test resource managers to integrate test resources into each flight test for the MDS Test Program. He leads a staff of 83 civilians and contractor personnel and 300+ prime like contractors with an annual budget of $100M. Mr. Williams is a Lieutenant Colonel, USA, Retired. Previous to his current position he has support the agency in various positions at including: Director, THAAD Test and Evaluation; Director/Dep Dir, Warfighter Operational Support: Executive Officer, Director for Test, and Deputy Director, Test Operations.

DAY 2
Mr. Brian J. Chapuran
Associate General Counsel – Acquisition
Missile Defense Agency

Brian Chapuran is an Associate General Counsel with MDA’s Office of General Counsel, where he advises Contracting Officers throughout the acquisition process and serves as Program Counsel for the Targets and Test Program Offices. Mr. Chapuran previously worked in private practice where he advised government contractors on all aspects of federal acquisitions and represented those contractors in litigation in state and Federal courts, the GAO, and the SBA. Prior to that, Mr. Chapuran served 12 years on active duty as an Army Judge Advocate, with assignments across various practice areas. His contract and fiscal law experience included advising on contingency contracting and Foreign Military Sales in Iraq and representing the Army in bid protests at the GAO and contract appeals before the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals. He continues to serve in the Army Reserve as an Adjunct Professor of Contract and Fiscal at the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School.

Christoph Mlinarchik
Owner, Christoph LLC

Christoph Mlinarchik, JD, CFCM, PMP is an attorney, professional instructor, consultant, frequent public speaker, nationally recognized subject matter expert, and prolific author of 50+ publications on government contracts. He is the owner of a successful small business (www.ChristophLLC.com) that provides consulting advice and professional training to small and large businesses in a wide variety of industries. Christoph is the author of Government Contracts in Plain English, available on Amazon at https://www.amazon.com/dp/173419815X/

Christoph was honored with the "Top Professionals Under 40" and "Best Article of the Year" awards by National Contract Management Association (NCMA).
Dr. Yazmin Carroll
Director for Advanced Research
Missile Defense Agency

Dr. Yazmin Carroll serves as the Director for Advanced Research for the Missile Defense Agency. She is responsible for researching revolutionary technologies and developing those technologies to create and enable future Missile Defense capabilities. She leads over 40 civilian and contract personnel to develop and transform cutting edge technologies into applications for insertion into the Missile Defense systems by capitalizing on the innovation and creativity of the Nation’s small businesses and universities. Dr. Carroll’s portfolio includes oversight of the Agency’s Advanced Research Program Execution, Small Business Innovation Research, Small Business Technology Transfer, Broad Agency Announcement, and Office of the Under Secretary of Defense Research and Development Rapid Innovation Funds.

Prior to her current position, Dr. Carroll served as the X-Band Sensors Chief Engineer responsible for the technical leadership of the Army/Navy Transportable Radar Surveillance #2 (AN/TPY-2) and the Sea Based X-Band (SBX) radars for the Sensors Directorate in the Missile Defense Agency. She managed efforts of 15 radars around the world including Foreign Military Sales in various stages of the acquisition cycle ranging from development to Operations and Sustainment.

Dr. Carroll also served as the Lead Engineer for the AN/TPY-2 Product Office at the Missile Defense Agency responsible for the development of radar capability and delivery to the Warfighter. In this position, Dr. Carroll implemented the first Electronic Protection and Corporate Clutter (CC) radar programs which began a major acquisition effort for the AN/TPY-2 radar. Additionally, Dr. Carroll served as the Director for the Analysis and Modeling and Simulation for the Sensors Directorate in the Missile Defense Agency. In this position, Dr. Carroll developed an innovative, cost-effective next generation set of Open Systems Architecture digital and hardware-in-the-loop models which support performance assessments, exercises, and Warfighter training.

Prior to joining the Missile Defense Agency in 2010, Dr. Carroll's experience includes fifteen years in detailed analysis and modeling of domestic and foreign missile and radar systems at Dynetics., and infrared hard body modeling at Science Applications International Corporation.
Dr. Carroll holds a bachelors, masters, and doctorate degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Alabama. She is a member of the Department of Defense Acquisition Corps and holds Level III certification in Systems Planning, Research, Development and Engineering. Dr. Carroll has been recognized with the 30th Annual Black Engineer of the Year Award, Modern-Day Technology Leader Award, selected as the President of the First Latin American Congress for the Business Woman, Professional of the Year Award by Society of Women Engineers, and inducted into the Honorable and Ancient Order of Saint Barbara.

John Hawkins, Jr.
Office of the Secretary of Defense (MDA-OSD) Communities of Interests (Col) Coordinator
Missile Defense Agency

Mr. John Hawkins, Jr. has a broad technical background with over 20 years of experience in Project Engineering, Program Management, Liquid Propulsion Engineering, Hypersonics and Missile Defense Flight testing. His experience in Aerospace includes work with both industry and with the Federal Government in Hypersonics, Wind and Water tunnel testing, space propulsion, systems engineering, and missile defense systems. He has been with the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) for 11 years and currently serves as the Missile Defense Agency-Office of the Secretary of Defense (MDA-OSD) Communities of Interests (Col) Coordinator. In this role he is responsible for engaging industry, academia, and the national laboratories to invest in innovative technologies that bring the warfighter cutting-edge capabilities to out-pace advancing threats. As MDA Col Coordinator, Mr. Hawkins ensures that technology development across the agency is shared with the wider Department of Defense (DoD) community to enhance collaboration and cost-sharing. His previous positions include: Flight Test Element Lead; where he was responsible for all aspects of Command, Control, Battle Management, and Communications (C2BMC) performance for various individual flight tests; Technology Realization Lead, responsible for discovery, vetting and testing of innovative technologies in support of the MDA mission.

Prior to MDA, Mr. Hawkins worked in Pratt & Whitney’s Divisions of Space propulsion and Hypersonics as a propulsion engineer and Program/Project Manager in West Palm Beach Fl. Significant highlights of Mr. Hawkins’ earlier career included directing the build and delivery of Space Shuttle Main Engine Fuel & Lox Pumps that successfully flew on multiple Space Shuttle
missions and successfully managing the developmental design, and systems integration of a Hypersonic Engine’s Isolator and Combustor sections. Prior to completing his Bachelor’s Degree, Mr. Hawkins worked at NASA Lewis’10x10 Supersonic Wind tunnel, Penn State’s Wind and Water tunnels, and worked his way through his last years at Southern University as Aerospace Laboratory Technician. He received his Bachelor’s degree in Aerospace Engineering from Southern University in 1999 and is currently working to complete his Masters in Systems Engineering and Management of Technology from the University of Miami.

Mr. Hawkins grew up in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania and enjoys supporting his daughter’s competition cheer events, his son’s AAU basketball games, motorcycle riding, and Steelers football games. He currently resides in Huntsville, AL with his wife (NASA engineer) and two children.

Jeff Sexton
Architecture Design Director
Missile Defense Systems.

Jeff has spent the last 34 Years in the Aerospace business as a Systems Engineer, test engineer, and Program Manager. Jeff is a graduate of Purdue University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. His career began at NASA where he spent 22 years in various positions including Deputy PM for NASA’s Hypersonic X-34 Program and as PM for X-37 Program, Deputy Systems Engineer for the Ares I and V program executing all SE&I functions within the government. Jeff joined MDA in 2008 spending 10 years in GMD including the role of Lead Systems Engineer for the Ground Based Missile Defense Program. Jeff also served as the Deputy Technical Director and Technical Director for the Hypersonic Defense Program and recently become the Director for Architecture Design under the MDA Chief Architect.
Leigh Christian is one of the founders of the Women's Business Center of North Alabama (WBCNA), now known as The Catalyst Center for Business and Entrepreneurship. She has been involved for 20+ years with The Catalyst and has served as a President, Board Member, Board of Advisor, Coach, Mentor, Workshop Leader, and Conference Chair. Leigh also owns Plans to Prosper Consulting and serves as a small business consultant primarily for government contractors. She has an extensive background in government contracting and banking. Leigh specializes in Government Contracting, Innovation and Technology, Business Development, Proposal Management, Strategy, Startup, Teaming and other areas of small business. Leigh has a Bachelor’s in Business Administration from Faulkner University and an Associate’s in Retail Merchandising from Calhoun College and Professional Designations in Advanced Contract Management and Contract Management. She has attended numerous trainings and has received many certifications and awards. She has been awarded the prestigious Moquin Award (Professional of the Year) from the Huntsville Association of Technical Societies, the Women In Defense Leadership Award, the HASBAT Small Business Advocate of the Year and the WEDC Foundation Women Honoring Women Honoree to name a few.
Thomas “Duane” Keller
Deputy Director of Contracting for Sensors Foreign Military Sales (FMS)
Missile Defense Agency

Thomas “Duane Keller is the Deputy Director of Contracting, Ground Sensors FMS at MDA. He is currently responsible for implementation of Ground Sensors FMS contracting actions to include planning of workload, negotiating cost and contract terms and conditions, execution and administration of contracts; and administers and implements actions, engineering change proposal, and Task Orders against the multiple sensors Contracts that provide surveillance capability for the Missile Defense System (MDS).

Duane is a retired U. S. Air Force member who served for twenty-one years. His contracting career spans over 19 years; seven years while serving on active duty, and 12 years with the Department of Defense for the Missile Defense Agency, and Army Contracting Command. Before assuming his current position, he was the Contracting Team Lead for the Apache Production and Fielding at the Army Contracting Command. Duane is a member of the DOD Acquisition Corps, has a DAWIA Level III Certification in Contracting, and earned two Master’s degrees—Master of Science in Acquisition and Contracts and a Master of Business Administration.