



Amanda L. Richardson

Acting Director, Research and Development Directorate



Amanda L. Richardson, is currently serving as Acting Director, Research and Development Directorate (RD), as the Senior Executive providing corporate leadership and communicating the Agency's vision to the RD workforce, while providing overall leadership, guidance, and management to the staff. Ms. Richardson is responsible for providing scientific and technical program management, oversight, and direction to 500+ Service members and civilian scientists, engineers, and program managers possessing a PhD or Master's degree, engaged in a wide variety of science and technology (S&T) programs and projects. Ms. Richardson ensures application and consideration of all elements required for mission accomplishment, to include requirements validation, technology infusion, planning, programming, and budgeting. She manages the RD portfolio which is approximately 90% of the total Department of Defense (DoD) basic and applied research investment in countering weapons of mass destruction and provides acquisition guidance on more than \$1.2B in annual investments in S&T to combat the threat of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).

Upon her SES Appointment in May 2023, Ms. Richardson served as the Director, Counter Weapons of Mass Destruction Technologies Department, RD Directorate, leading six divisions focused on researching, developing, demonstrating, and transitioning innovative technologies and capabilities to actively counter the full spectrum of adversary WMD threats and activities, and delivering those capabilities to the Warfighter. She directed a civilian and military professional staff in the development and execution of R&D programs responsive to combatant commands, the military services, and other DoD organizations, ensuring warfighters are equipped to deter and prevent adversary WMD possession, and prevail against adversaries in a WMD environment.

Prior to Ms. Richardson's SES Appointment, she served as the Chief of Staff and Chief of Operations for the RD Directorate and played a key role in DTRA's collaboration with industry, research universities, and the interagency to develop counter WMD capabilities in support of our warfighters. Ms. Richardson led the strategic operations, management, and integration of the research, development, test, and evaluation activities of DTRA, with a geographically dispersed military and civilian workforce of more than 500 engineers and scientists, and an annual budget of approximately \$1 billion. Her work enabled the DoD's efforts to develop science and technology capabilities to detect, prevent proliferation of, and prevail against adversary chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons and other emerging threats, and the development of capabilities for U.S. forces to operate effectively in WMD environments.