



Kristi Church

Director, Nuclear Enterprise



Kristi Church, a career member of the Senior Executive Service (SES), is the Director of the Nuclear Enterprise Directorate (NE) at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). She leads five geographically dispersed departments with over 650 military, civilian, and contractor personnel, oversees an annual budget of approximately \$150 million, and directs NE's mission activities by ensuring effective operational planning, capability deployment, resource management, and strategic communications. Her directorate is responsible for providing the resources for nuclear weapons safety, security, and accountability. She oversees surety inspections, nuclear-related education and training, and strategic initiatives critical to the nation's nuclear deterrent. Key areas of focus include national-level nuclear accident and incident exercises,

nuclear weapons operations, emergency response, the transformation of the nuclear enterprise and its infrastructure, stockpile sustainment, nuclear weapons program requirements, mission assurance, and policy implementation.

Ms. Church began her DTRA career as a nuclear policy manager in the Nuclear Strategy Division, where she focused on nuclear command, control, and communications (NC3) and improving nuclear literacy. Before her promotion to Deputy Director and Director, she served as Division Chief, where her team was DTRA's nexus for nuclear policy, technology, and operations, working to improve nuclear enterprise decision space and mission execution by providing analytical expertise, governance support, strategy alignment, and workforce development.

Ms. Church served for 25 years as a fully joint-qualified Air Force officer. Commissioned as a distinguished graduate from the Kansas State University ROTC program, she began her career as a personnel officer before transitioning to the space and missile career field. Her service included roles as an intercontinental ballistic missile combat crew commander and instructor, an Emergency War Orders planner, computer network attack planner, homeland defense strategy and policy expert, space systems programmer, and a National Defense University Associate Professor teaching Joint Professional Military Education Phase II. She concluded her military career on the Headquarters Air Staff, Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications (NC3) Division, where she was Chief of the NC3 Policy, Governance, and Program Support Branches.

Ms. Church holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Kansas State University and a Master of Arts in Security Studies from the Naval Postgraduate School.