Information Session: Role of a modern and robust Modeling and Simulation (M&S) at DoD

Dr. Stacie Williams, PhD
Program Manager, Tactical Technology Office, DARPA

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Virtual: https://meet.google.com
Contact Arturo for the meeting id.

The University of Texas, El Paso

As the nation's largest employer, the Department of Defense (DoD) provides the military forces with what is needed to deter war and to protect the security of our country. To meet this mission the DoD relies on Modeling and Simulation (M&S) capabilities which are continuing to improve and expand within the DoD. A modern and robust M&S capability is essential to keep pace with the evolving threat environment that faces the defense establishment and is used in many ways by DoD. Dr. Stacie Williams will discuss the role that M&S plays in DoD research and new technology development from her perspective as a program manager for DoD sponsored research at the Air Force Research Laboratory(AFRL) and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

Dr. Stacie Williams joined DARPA in February 2019 as a program manager in the Tactical Technology Office. Her expertise includes remote sensing, research and development portfolio management, and technology transition. Williams joins DARPA from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research in Arlington, Virginia, where she managed the Air Force's basic research investment in remote sensing with applications to battlefield monitoring at range and space situational awareness. Prior to that, she served as the technical advisor for space surveillance systems at the Air Force Research Laboratory Directed Energy Directorate, Kihei, Maui, Hawaii. There, she directed oversight of all R&D programs and stakeholder engagement strategy at the Air Force Maui Optical and Supercomputing (AMOS) site. She led a team of scientists and engineers focused on developing and transitioning relevant capabilities to improve the nation's operational space situational awareness. As a research faculty member in the Boston University physics department, Williams led a research team to carry out research and development programs and managed a start-up technology company transitioning basic R&D products. She completed her postdoctoral research at Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico. At Los Alamos, she was one of the pioneering researchers advancing time-resolved infrared studies of biologically relevant molecules, and was the first to observe a metal-metal bond in a protein. Before joining the Air Force research team, Williams briefly stepped away from the lab to focus on improving science, technology, engineering, and math education, especially in economically disadvantaged schools. At the University of Dayton, she provided foundational leadership in a nationally recognized Gates Foundation-funded program to design and implement a nontraditional secondary educational approach for a high poverty school population. She also taught in the Massachusetts Department of Education system, where she earned an innovative educator award for curriculum development. Williams holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Arkansas and a doctorate in physical chemistry from the University of California, Santa Cruz.