



News Release: 22-103

For Immediate Release

Date: August 22, 2022

Jessica Stewart Begins Role as Director of IDA's Strategy, Forces and Resources Division

ALEXANDRIA, VA (August 2022) – Jessica Stewart assumed duties today as director of the Strategy, Forces and Resources Division within the Systems and Analyses Center, an IDA-managed federally funded research and development center.

“I’m pleased to welcome Jessica to IDA’s Leadership team and to have her lead SFRD,” said IDA President Norty Schwartz. “She has extensive experience and is a solid leader with deep analytic expertise.”

As director of SFRD, she leads a staff of researchers who work on topics as diverse as nuclear weapons policy and strategy, organizational management and effectiveness, and force capability and force structure analyses.

Stewart has spent more than two decades working directly with government sponsors to help meet technical, operational and strategic challenges. Before joining IDA, she developed and led a portfolio of analytic work supporting combatant commands and services as a mission area executive for National Security Analysis at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. Also at APL, she was the program area manager for Innovative Operational Concepts where she led cross-functional teams that addressed military posture and readiness, operations and technology issues.

Prior to joining APL, Stewart was a senior research scientist for the Center for Naval Analyses. At CNA, she directed projects and published research on military strategy and operations, emergency response and disaster preparedness, and efficiency and effectiveness measures. Stewart also has significant operational experience. She served as an embedded analyst with U.S. Naval Forces, Europe and Africa, and U.S. Sixth Fleet; U.S. Naval Forces, Middle East, and U.S. Fifth Fleet; and Commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force. As an embedded field analyst with U.S. forces in the Middle East during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Stewart provided on-scene reconstruction and analysis of tactical operations for commanders.

Stewart has a law degree from Georgetown University and is a member of the Maryland State Bar Association. She also received a master’s degree in national security studies from Georgetown University and a bachelor’s degree in international affairs from the George Washington University.

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