

Christine Michienzi, Ph.D. (ST)

Senior Technology Advisor, USD A&S



Dr. Christine (Chris) Michienzi is a Scientific Professional (ST) in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. She is the Senior Technology Advisor for the Undersecretary of Defense (USD) for Acquisition and Sustainment, where she advises the Undersecretary and other senior DoD leaders on sourcing innovative solutions for the design, development, and production of DoD systems; advances the Department's acquisition and sustainment processes themselves by incorporating innovative practices; and facilitates technology transitions to provide cutting edge capability to the warfighter.

Prior to her current assignment, Dr. Michienzi served as the Chief Technology Officer for the USD and Assistant Secretary of Defense (ASD) for Industrial Base Policy (IBP), where she provided technical expertise and strategic and policy guidance to the USD and ASD on the industrial base for critical defense technology areas such as missiles and munitions, critical chemicals, hypersonics, microelectronics, and strategic systems. She also led the Department's effort to increase industrial base capacity to accelerate replenishment of weapons systems donated to Ukraine, enabling DoD to donate even more.

Previously she served as the Missiles and Munitions Industrial Analyst then Director of Industrial Base Assessments in IBP - leading a team of industrial analysts responsible for assessing the capabilities, health, and resiliency of the industrial base on which the Department relies for current and future warfighting capabilities. She and her team developed mitigations to address identified industrial base risks and issues in all industrial sectors, leading to enhanced Department readiness.

Dr. Michienzi began in OSD as the Insensitive Munitions lead for the DoD in the office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Tactical Warfare Systems, where she led a large, multi-Service Science and Technology program to develop technologies to make DoD munitions safer. She also served as the missiles and munitions technical expert for the Technical Director, while at the Navy's Program Executive Office, Integrated Warfare Systems (PEO IWS), Surface Ship Weapons, where she led the effort to integrate the Navy's missile systems with the new Air and Missile Defense Radar system.

Dr. Michienzi began her career with the Department of Defense at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head Division, initially developing new explosives and propellants for DoD weapons systems, for which she holds five patents and has published numerous technical papers. She eventually became the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation Department Head, leading over 140 scientist and engineers performing research for Navy weapons systems. She received both the Naval Sea Systems Command Scientist of the Year Award and the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition Scientist of the Year Award for her research achievements.

Most recently, Dr. Michienzi received the Secretary of Defense's Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service.

Dr. Michienzi received her Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP), and her Doctorate in Analytical Chemistry, also from UMCP.