

Dr. Shari Feth, (SES, ret)

Dr. Shari Feth is a senior executive and technologist with ~40 years of experience spanning materials science, electromagnetics, directed energy, optics & fiber optics, sensors, radars, hypersonics, microelectronics, semiconductor growth, artificial intelligence, quantum advancements, systems engineering, and missile defense. Appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 2018, she retired in 2024 as the Director, Innovation & Science and Technology at the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), where she oversaw up to \$650M annually and led multi-organization teams of 200–400 professionals, accelerating next-generation capabilities.



Dr. Feth provided governance and direction for Department of Defense/Department of War strategic investments as a principal member of multiple boards including the S&T Executive Committee, Joint Defense Manufacturing Council, MIT Lincoln Laboratory Government Oversight Review Committee, and represented MDA on the multi-service hypersonic vehicle development board of directors. She led an OSD/OSW-mandated Sensors Analysis of Alternatives, briefed Congressional staff on MDA technology investments (gaining additional support annually), conceived/hosted MDA Industry Innovation Days, and aligned industry with MDA priorities. Her portfolio included the DoD's 4th-largest SBIR/STTR program (~500 contracts/year) and MDA's STEM enterprise, where she launched the first Alabama virtual engineering academy for underserved high-school students, reaching 10,000+ learners/year. Earlier MDA roles include Program Executive, Advanced Technology; Senior Technical Director, S&T (ST); Deputy BMDS Architect; and Chief Engineer/Chief Systems Engineer, Sensors Directorate—where she held technical purview over 18 radars while building and managing the engineering organization.

A materials and sensor researcher by training, Dr. Feth conducted research at NASA, Marshall Space Flight Center; Oak Ridge National Lab; Idaho National Engineering Lab; Fisk University; and Virginia Tech. She is an inventor on U.S. Patent 5,381,229 (Jan 10, 1995), author of 15 refereed journal papers and author on 7 additional conference proceedings/presentations. Dr. Feth received her Ph.D in materials Engineering and her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Electrical Engineering from Virginia Tech. Her key awards include the 2024 MDA Distinguished Civilian Service Award, 2023 induction into the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara (U.S. Air Defense Artillery), 2022 OSD Exceptional Civilian Service Award, and 2016 MDA Leadership Award. Since retiring from Federal Service, she has opened her own consulting business (FethTec, LLC). Dr. Feth holds an active TS/SCI clearance.