



Dr. Marina Theodotou

Dr. Marina Theodotou serves as the Executive Director of the Defense Innovation Board (DIB) at the United States Department of Defense. As Executive Director, Dr. Theodotou serves as a principal advisor on Innovation to the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering. In this capacity, she is responsible for exercising direction, planning, management, and coordination of the Defense Innovation Board. As such, she provides direction on critical Defense Innovation Board issues and special programs of interest to the Secretary of Defense, Deputy Secretary of Defense, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering. As the Designated

Federal Officer Dr. Theodotou is also responsible for ensuring that the Defense Innovation Board operations are conducted according to all applicable laws and regulations.

Prior to this role, Dr. Theodotou served as organizational change expert at the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) where she led cross functional teams to design, develop, and deliver innovative initiatives to empower and inspire the workforce to out-think and out-innovate the adversary including TEDxDAU, now DAU's flagship, annual learning evening reaching over 6,000 registrants; DAU Web Events reaching over 70,000 workforce members, and Innovate to Win which enables the workforce to own their innovation journeys through self-assessment, a personal innovation readiness report, and a personalized, curated, learning pathway.

Over the last 26 years prior to joining the federal government, Dr. Theodotou led diverse teams in industry, academia, and non-profits in the United States, the European Union, and the Middle East to solve problems at the intersection of innovation, organizational change, learning, and defense. She is known for inspiring teams to drive culture change and building enduring programs that support the mission. Dr. Theodotou stood up the first office and served as Country Director in Amman, Jordan or the Financial Services Volunteer Corps, a NY based non-profit providing financial sector technical assistance to Jordan and other US allies through the Middle East Partnership Initiative at the State Department. Dr. Theodotou began her career in banking and financial services, concluding a decade at Bank of America as Six Sigma Black Belt and Vice President of Strategic Benchmarking in Quality and Productivity.

Dr. Theodotou is a recognized thought leader, keynote speaker, panelist, and author on innovation, organizational change, leadership development, employee engagement, and business growth. She teaches executive MBA students as an assistant professor at the Jack Welch Management Institute and her articles have been featured in the Defense Acquisition Magazine, Harvard Business Review Ascend, Inc.com, eLearning Industry, and Chief Learning Officer among others.

She is the recipient of numerous honors and awards including most recently the 2023 Trailblazer Gold Award by Chief Learning Officer; the 2023 DAU Business Professional of the Year award; the 2023 DAU Support to the Warfighter Team Lead Award; the 2021 Major General Harold J. "Harry" Greene Award for Acquisition Writing in Innovation.

Committed to serving others as a member Rotary International and a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow, Dr. Theodotou is the President-Elect of the Crystal City Pentagon Rotary Club. She is an Editorial Board Member for the Defense Acquisition Research Journal. She served on the Board of Director of the NYC and Albany Chapters of the Association for Talent Development, and she is a member of the National Defense Industrial Association. A distinguished graduate of the University of South Carolina with a bachelors and master's degrees in Economics, Dr. Theodotou holds a doctorate in Education on Organizational Change and Leadership from the University of Southern California.