



**René Thomas-Rizzo**

**Director  
Human Capital Initiatives (HCI)  
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense  
for Acquisition & Sustainment**

Ms. Thomas-Rizzo, Senior Executive Service, is responsible for all Department of Defense (DoD) acquisition workforce strategy, policy and initiatives for the 165,000 member acquisition workforce. Ms. Thomas-Rizzo led recent efforts to develop the Defense Acquisition Strategic Workforce Plan; make major improvements to the DoD Acquisition Demonstration Project – a contribution-based management system; significantly improve use of the \$500M Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund; and work with Congress to improve statutory authorities for the acquisition workforce.



Ms. Thomas-Rizzo began her professional career as an Acquisition Logistics Intern for Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) in Crystal City, VA. She then became the Program Manager, NAVAIR Weapons Training Support for the Naval Undersea Warfare Center. Other assignments include Chief of Staff for Program Executive Office Integrated Warfare Systems (IWS) and Deputy Program Manager for IWS 7.0 – Future Combat Systems, Open Architecture and Human Systems Integration. Prior to her current assignment, she served as the Department of the Navy Director of Acquisition Career Management with the Assistant Secretary of Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition.

Ms. Thomas-Rizzo graduated from Mary Washington College with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and a Master's Degree in Business Administration. She holds a Level 3 certification in Defense Acquisition Program Management and is a member of the Acquisition Corps.