
Joseph M. Tonon, Ph.D.



Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense Deputy Secretary of Defense

Currently, Mr. Tonon serves as a Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense. His portfolio includes intelligence, counter intelligence, special operations, and other duties as assigned.

Previously, Mr. Tonon served as the Senior Director for Intelligence; in this role he was responsible for advising the Undersecretary of the Navy and Deputy Undersecretary of the Navy (Policy) on all aspects of the field, to include budgetary, policy, and technical matters. He was appointed to the Defense Intelligence Senior Level in December 2016.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Tonon held a number of positions at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab (APL). While at APL, he was both a manager and a senior advisor on the use of analytics to support national security decision making. Additionally, he is also an officer in the Navy Reserve with significant experience in intelligence (Transportation Command and Office of Naval Intelligence) programming and budgeting (OPNAV N80 and N95), and special operations and irregular warfare (Naval Special Warfare Squadron Five, Naval Special Warfare Development Group, and Naval Special Warfare Command). He has held a number of academic positions and been a consultant to both industry and the intelligence community.

Mr. Tonon completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Rochester. After learning about experimental economics and game theory as an undergraduate student, he then completed his graduate studies in game theory at Washington University in Saint Louis. He received his doctorate in 2003. His dissertation focused on organizational design and small group decision making.