



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
**SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION  
AND RESPONSE OFFICE**



**BIOGRAPHY:**

Dr. Andra Teten Tharp is a Highly Qualified Expert and the Senior Prevention Advisor for the US Department of Defense Office of Force Resiliency and Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office. From 2015-2019, Dr. Tharp served as the Highly Qualified Expert and the Senior Prevention Advisor for the US Air Force Integrated Resilience Office. From 2008-2015 Dr. Tharp worked in the Division of Violence Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, GA. At CDC she held the positions of Behavioral Scientist, Senior Health Scientist, and Acting Chief of the Research and Evaluation Branch. She has over 80 publications in the areas of trauma and violence, has made numerous presentations at international, national, state or local conferences or meetings, and has received many awards for her work in violence prevention. Dr. Tharp has provided clinical care and conducted research with survivors of trauma as well as violence perpetrators. Dr. Tharp is a licensed clinical psychologist and Clinical Assistant Professor at Baylor College of Medicine.

**AWARDS:**

Young Investigator Award, International Society for Research on Aggression, 2008  
Early Career Award in Behavioral and Social Sciences, Behavioral and Social Sciences Working Group at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2011  
Finalist, 2012 Linda E. Salzman New Investigator Award, 2012  
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Director's Award for Excellence in Moving Science into Action, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014  
Award for Meritorious Civilian Service, US Air Force, 2019

**EDUCATION:**

Bachelors in Arts, University of Arizona, Psychology, Tucson, Arizona  
Masters of Arts, University of Oregon, Psychology, Eugene, Oregon  
Doctor of Philosophy, University of Oregon, Clinical Psychology, Eugene, Oregon  
Southwest Consortium of Pre-doctoral Psychology Internship, Albuquerque, New Mexico  
Special Fellowship in Advanced Psychiatry & Psychology, South Central Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, Houston, Texas

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. 2000-2001: Editorial Director and Research Coordinator, Departments of Psychiatry and Psychology, North Texas Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Dallas, Texas
2. 2001-2004: Research Assistant, Department of Psychology, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon
3. 2004-2005: Teaching Assistant, Department of Psychology, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon
4. 2006-2008: Instructor, Menninger Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas
5. 2008-2010: Behavioral Scientist, Division of Violence Prevention, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia
6. 2008-present: Clinical Assistant Professor, Menninger Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas
7. 2013-2015: Affiliated Faculty, School of Public Health, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia
8. 2010-2015: Senior Health Scientist, Division of Violence Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia
9. July-Oct 2014: Acting Chief: Research and Evaluation Branch, Division of Violence Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia
10. 2015-2019: Senior Prevention Advisor, Integrated Resilience Office, US Air Force, Washington, DC.
11. Dec 18-Jan 19: Acting Deputy Director, Integrated Resilience Office, US Air Force, Washington, DC.
12. 2019-present: Senior Prevention Advisor, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, Department of Defense, Washington, DC.
13. 2020-present: Senior Prevention Advisor to the Executive Director, Office of Force Resiliency, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), Washington DC.

## **BIOGRAPHY**

**SOFIYA VELGACH**  
**PERSONNEL RESEARCH PSYCHOLOGIST**  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**  
**OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS**  
**M&RA/MPP (AP)**

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Dr. Velgach reported to Accession Policy in September 2018 as the Personnel Research Psychologist in charge of the Testing Standards Portfolio. She manages the testing programs across the services to include the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) and special tests used for accession purposes. She is responsible for coordinating with the Services, USMEPCOM, and Defense Human Resources Activity on implementation and execution of the testing program.

Previously, Dr. Velgach worked as the Manpower Branch Chief for Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), responsible for managing over 10K military and civilian positions across the Agency and developing strategic metrics and process reengineering for DISA, Workforce Services Directorate. Prior to her position with DISA, Dr. Velgach was the Deputy Director for Navy, Selection and Classification office (OPNAV N132G). In that role she planned, designed, developed and conducted operational analyses and research efforts relating to Enlisted Force Management. She governed rating entry standards, established validation methodology protocols and assessed fit between Sailor and rating match.

Dr. Velgach received her bachelor's degree, Cum Laude, in Psychology with a minor in Business from Loyola University Chicago and her Ph.D. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from Illinois Institute of Technology. Dr. Velgach is a member of American Psychological Association and Society for Industrial Organizational Psychology.

Dr. Velgach's awards include the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award (2015), Ten Years Civilian Service Award (2015), Great Performer Award (2017), Highest Standards of Academic Achievement Award (2010), and various other annual performance and academic awards and achievements.