Julie Pechacek is a Research Staff Member and economist at the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) in Alexandria, VA, where she leads teams conducting econometric, machine learning, and other empirical research on military personnel topics including recruiting and retention; human capital identification, measurement, and development; optimal occupation match; returns to investments in education, training, and labor inputs; and the use of market mechanisms to prevent negative behaviors.

In addition to her applied economic research, Julie leads an effort to build collaboration, provide opportunities for open-source model development, improve peer review, and expand the use of machine learning, high-throughput computing, and other techniques leveraging large data sets among the researchers supporting the Department of Defense (DoD) at IDA and other organizations. She is the founding researcher and Director of IDA’s Personally Identifiable Information Enclave, which operates a distributed computing cluster and other high-capacity computing assets.

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