

Mareena Robinson Snowden Bio

Mareena Robinson Snowden, PhD is a senior engineer in the National Security Analysis Department at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory. Her current research portfolio includes future nuclear weapon systems, nuclear crisis issues, and new technology for surface warfare. Prior to joining JHU APL, Mareena was a Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow with the Nuclear Policy Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, where her research focused on nuclear arms control verification, nonproliferation, and modernization.

In 2017-2018, Robinson Snowden served as a National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Graduate Fellow (NGFP) in the Office of Major Modernization Programs. This office is responsible for the modernization of warhead systems and ensuring access to the strategic materials used in the U.S. stockpile. As an NGFP fellow, Robinson Snowden supported the office programmatically—contributing to the development of strategic documents, developing and presenting briefings to senior NNSA leadership, and serving as technology liaison to the Development Lab at the Y12 National Security Complex.

Robinson Snowden was awarded the NNSA Stockpile Stewardship Graduate Fellowship (SSGF) in 2012, a four-year fellowship that supported her graduate work in the MIT Laboratory for Nuclear Security and Policy. As a SSGF fellow, she conducted research at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where she developed computational models to understand radiation interactions generated inside of an open-source warhead design, and conducted experiments to understand the feasibility of detecting these interactions in reality.

Robinson Snowden became the first black woman to earn a PhD in nuclear engineering from MIT in 2017, and holds a BS in physics from Florida A&M University. Her story in STEM has been featured in MARVEL Comics, CNBC, BET and other national television, radio and print media.