

Back to the Future



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AN ARMY MAD SCIENTIST CONFERENCE











Brigadier General Peter J. Whalen

Deputy Commanding General

U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command

Brigadier General Whalen enlisted in the Army Reserve as an Intelligence Analyst in 1988. He received his commission in the Army Reserve as a Military Intelligence Officer from Marist College ROTC (Poughkeepsie, New York) in 1991.

In his 33 years of service, Brigadier General Whalen served as a Platoon Leader, twice as a Company Commander, Military

Intelligence Detachment Commander, and Military Intelligence Group Commander.

His Army staff assignments include Counterintelligence Officer, Brigade Adjutant, Human Intelligence Officer, Intelligence Plans Officer, Intelligence Collection Manager, Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) Officer, Assistant Chief of Staff, G2, and Chief of Staff.

Brigadier General Whalen mobilized in support of Operation Joint Guard in 1997 serving as the Balkans Order of Battle Chief for the 66th Military Intelligence Group (Provisional), Augsburg, Germany. He mobilized twice in support of Operation Enduring Freedom serving in Afghanistan as the Intelligence Collection Manager for Combined Joint Task Force-76 in 2005 and for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Joint Command in 2011. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters).

In his civilian career Brigadier General Whalen serves as an Intelligence Specialist for the Department of the Army and is currently assigned to the Headquarters, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Eustis, Virginia.

Brigadier General Whalen holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Radio and Television Production from Bradley University (Peoria, Illinois), a Master Degree in Public Administration from Marist College (Poughkeepsie, New York) and a Master Degree in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College (Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania). He is married to the former Maria Schmidt of Peoria, Illinois. They have two children, Patrick and Claire, residing in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.



Mr. Charles R. Bowery, Jr.

Executive Director

U.S. Army Center of Military History



Executive Director, United States Army Center of Military History and Chief of Military History. Mr. Bowery is responsible for the overall direction of historical matters throughout the Department of the Army, which includes management of twenty-nine Army museums, including the National Museum of the United States Army, and proponency for the Army's operational and deployed military historians and military history detachments. As the Chief of Military History, Mr. Bowery plans, formulates, and executes the Army Historical Program, and supervises the production of Army historical works and studies that support the Army's development of plans, policies, doctrine, force structure, and equipment. The CMH advises the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Army and other Army Senior Leaders on historical background relevant to events and projected actions affecting the Army. Mr. Bowery is a published author and staff ride leader specializing in the American Civil War.

CAREER CHRONOLOGY:

- December 2015: Appointed to the Senior Executive Service.
- June 2013-December 2015: Joint Staff, J-8, and Officer in Charge, Joint Staff Robotic and Autonomous Systems Team, Pentagon.
- September 2011-June 2013: Chief, Doctrine Division, Directorate of Training and Doctrine, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, TRADOC.
- July 2009-September 2011: Commander, 1st Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, FORSCOM.
- December 2008-July 2009: Chief of Operations, G3, III Armored Corps, FORSCOM.
- July 2004-December 2008: Battalion Operations Officer, Brigade Operations Officer, and Brigade Executive Officer, 1st Infantry Division and 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, USAREUR.
- April 1999-July 2003: Advanced Civil Schooling and Assistant Professor, Department of History,
 U.S. Military Academy.
- July 1997-April 1999: Logistics Officer and Troop Commander, 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Brigade, Eighth U.S. Army / Korea.
- August 1993-October 1996: Executive Officer, Platoon Leader, and Adjutant, 82nd Aviation Brigade and 229th Attack Helicopter Regiment, FORSCOM.



Dr. David Staley

President, Ohio Academy of History

Associate Professor of History, Ohio State University

Fellow, Arizona State University – Center for Science and the Imagination

David Staley is an Associate Professor in the Departments of History, Design and Educational Studies at The Ohio State University. He is the author of Alternative Universities: Speculative Design for Innovation in Higher Education, the co-author of the forthcoming book Knowledge Towns: Colleges and Universities as Talent Magnets, the author of the forthcoming collection of foresight essays Visionary Histories, and author of History and Future: Using Historical Thinking to Imagine the Future. He is currently President of the Ohio Academy of History, an Honorary Faculty Fellow at the Center for Higher Education Leadership and Innovative Practice (CHELIP) at Bay Path University, and a fellow at the Center for Science and the Imagination at Arizona State University. He is President of Columbus Futurists, and writes the monthly futures column "Next" for Columbus Underground, for which he was recognized by the Ohio Society of Professional Journalists as Best Freelance Writer.



Dr. Ethan Rafuse

Professor of Military History

U.S. Army Command and General Staff College

Ethan S. Rafuse received his Ph.D. in history and political science at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Since 2004, he has been a member of the Department of Military History at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, where he is a professor of military history. His published works include over 300 articles, essays, and reviews, McClellan's War: The Failure of Moderation in the Struggle for the Union, Robert E. Lee and the Fall of the Confederacy, 1863-1865, and Guide to the Richmond and Petersburg Campaigns of 1864-65. In 2018-19, he was the Charles Boal Ewing Distinguished Visiting Professor of Military History at the U.S. Military Academy.



Colonel Kristin Saling

Director of the Commanding General's Innovation Cell U.S. Army Human Resources Command

COL Kristin Saling is the Director of the Commanding General's Innovation Cell at U.S. Army Human Resources Command. She leads the recruiting and development of capabilities and talent to deliver engaged support and innovative data driven human resource services throughout the Army Human Capital Enterprise. She has been recognized as an expert voice throughout the DoD and federal government on people analytics and talent management.



Colonel Kevin Bigelman

Director, Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F)
U.S. Army TRADOC

Colonel Kevin A. Bigelman is a 1993 graduate of the United States Military Academy and was commissioned in the Field Artillery.

His military education includes the Field Artillery Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Master Fitness Trainer Course, Joint Firepower Control Course, Light Fire Support Officer's Course, Jumpmaster Course, Ranger School, Air Assault School, Mountain Warfare School, and the US Army Command and General Staff College.

His civilian education includes a PhD in exercise physiology from the University of Georgia and a MS from Indiana University in Applied Sport Science.

His assignments include Company Fire Support Officer and Support Platoon Leader in the 3d Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Fire Support Officer for B Company, 1st Ranger Battalion, Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, Georgia; Battalion Supply Officer and Battery Commander for B Battery, 3d Battalion, 13th Field Artillery (MLRS), IIId Armored Corps Artillery, Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Brigade Fire Support Officer for 1st Brigade, 82d Airborne Division and Operations Officer for 3d Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Garrison Commander, United States Army Garrison Livorno, Italy; Executive Officer to the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, Pentagon; and Operations and Training Division Chief, Army Resiliency Directorate, Army G-1, Pentagon.

Colonel Bigelman served three tours in the Department of Physical Education at the United States Military Academy, most recently as the Deputy Director.

Since 1 AUG 19, Colonel Bigelman serves as the Director for the Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F) System.



Mr. Alex Morrow

Integration Lead
Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F)

Alex Morrow works as the Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F) Integration Lead, providing training and support for strength and conditioning and allied health professionals across the Army. He previously served as an intelligence officer in the 4th Infantry Division and 10th Mountain Division before teaching the Master Fitness Trainer Course at the US Army Physical Fitness School. He continues to serve in the Army Reserve.



Research Physiologist
G2 | Research and Analysis
G10 | Holistic Health and Fitness

Dr. Andrew G Thompson, PhD, MS

Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Eustis, VA

Dr. Andrew G Thompson currently serves as the Research Physiologist for the U.S. Army's Center for Initial Military Training (CIMT) at Fort Eustis' Training and Doctrine Command. His position supports evolving the scientific process for transforming civilians into Soldiers and ensuring sustained force optimization through the Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F) System. As an interdisciplinary scientist, he develops, plans, coordinates, conducts, analyzes, and reports basic and applied research to enhance Soldier performance and readiness through improved training, education, and the translation of best scientific practices into U.S. Army doctrine.

Center for Initial Military Training

Andrew completed his B.S. focused in Biomechanics (2010) and M.S. in Exercise Physiology (2012) with Old Dominion University's Human Movement Sciences Department, then a Ph.D. concentrated on Motor Learning and Control in Auburn University's School of Kinesiology (2016). After selection by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, he was awarded a dual appointment Postdoctoral Scholar position in Applied Cognitive Sciences as a Research Psychologist with the US Army's Natick Soldier Research and Engineering Center (now Combat Capabilities Development Center) and Tufts University's Center for Applied Brain and Cognitive Sciences. Following his post doctorate, Andrew served as the Senior Research Scientist for West Virginia University's Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute. He has executed extensive S&T R&D efforts with the U.S. Army, Special Operations Command, the Office of Naval Research, and Air Force Research Labs. His work ranges from the application of biomonitoring technologies in facilitating operational readiness, to identifying and mitigating susceptibility to musculoskeletal injuries, enriching training simulators with robust metric automation, developing cognitive mindset training for close quarters combat, and enhancing the measurements and utilization of data in the human performance lifecycle. Andrew's near-term efforts for CIMT/H2F will focus on developing a robust human performance data management system to enhance tactical athlete talent development and facilitate information-driven behavior change that holistically enhances the Solider -- from recruitment, through training, deployment, and extending beyond their careers.



Dr. Vanessa Shannon

Director, Mental Performance
Cincinnati Reds

Dr. Vanessa Shannon is the Director of Mental Performance for the Cincinnati Reds. She joined the Reds in the Spring of 2022 after spending seven years as the Director of Mental Performance for the University of Louisville Athletic Department and Norton Sports Health.

Prior to Louisville, Dr. Shannon spent two years at IMG Academy in Bradenton, FL where she served as a Mental Conditioning Coach, coordinated Psychological Test Preparation for the NFL Combine Training Program, and served as a Vision Training Coach for the Major League Baseball Off-Season Training Program. Dr. Shannon began her career in academia where she spent 3 years as department chair of Exercise and Sport Sciences at Tennessee Wesleyan University and 5 years as a faculty member in the Sport and Exercise Psychology Program at West Virginia University. She holds a PhD in Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sports Studies with a specialization in Sport Psychology and concentration in Counseling from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She holds an MS in Kinesiology with an emphasis in Exercise Psychology from Kansas State University and BAs in Health and Human Performance and Psychology from Rice University. While at Rice University, Dr. Shannon was a member of the Women's Volleyball team.



Dr. Lee Vinsel

Assistant Professor, Department of Science, Technology, and Society

Virginia Tech

Lee Vinsel studies human life with technology, with particular focus on the relationship between government, business, and technological change. His first book, Moving Violations: Automobiles, Experts, and Regulations in the United States, was published by Johns Hopkins University Press in July 2019. Since 2015, with his collaborator Andy Russell, Vinsel has organized and led The Maintainers, a global interdisciplinary research network that examines maintenance, repair, and mundane work with technology. Vinsel's work has been published in several major history journals and has appeared in or been covered by Aeon, the New York Times, The Atlantic, Guardian, Le Monde, and other popular outlets.



Ms. Sheryl Connelly

Chief Futurist
Ford Motor Company

Sheryl Connelly has served as Ford's corporate futurist for over fifteen years. As the Chief Futurist, Connelly and her team led discussions on long-term thinking, planning and strategy. Her responsibilities include identifying global trends, exploring potential implications and cascading the futuring insights to organizations throughout the company, including design, product development and corporate strategy. Forbes Magazine recently recognized her as one of the Most Influential Women in Futuring, Fast Company has identified her as one of the Most Creative People in Business, and TechWeek has included her in its Top 100. At the request of the World Economic Forum, she sat on its Global Advisory Committee on transportation in 2015 and 2016. Sheryl has been a featured speaker around the world including at TED2018 and TED Global 2013. Before working for Ford, she practiced law. In addition to a Juris Doctorate, she holds a bachelor's degree in finance and a master's in business administration. Connelly lives in Michigan with her husband and their two daughters.



Mr. Michael C. Allison

Senior Intelligence Analyst
U.S. Army Futures Command



Mike Allison currently serves as the Senior Intelligence Analyst for Army Futures Command, a position he assumed 1 March 2021. He has served in a variety of senior national-level intelligence positions as part of an over ten-and-a-half-year career with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) from July 2010 thru February 2021. Prior to entering on duty as a Federal Civilian, Mike served in the United States Army for just over 20 years, retiring in 2010.

Before joining Army Futures Command, Mike briefly served as Intelligence Community Historian with the Center for the Study of Intelligence, a joint duty assignment with the Central Intelligence Agency, from September 2020 to February 2021. While with ODNI, Mike held the position of Principal Deputy National Intelligence Officer for Military Issues with the National Intelligence Council (NIC) from May 2016 to September 2020. In that role, he led analytic production and policy support for global military issues. Prior to that, he served as a Senior Foreign Engagement Officer for the Foreign Partnerships team at ODNI from March 2015 to May 2016. He specialized in building foreign partnerships for East Asia, India, Russia, Ukraine, and Turkey.

Previously, Mike served as the Deputy National Intelligence Officer for Europe at the NIC from July 2010 to March 2015 where he specialized in Aegean Security Issues, Islam in Europe, Energy, European/Middle East issues and counter-terrorism efforts on behalf of the NIO/Europe office. Prior to joining the NIC in July of 2010, he served as Division Chief for the Latin America/Europe/Eurasia/Africa division of the J-2, Joint Chiefs of Staff's analytical support office.

A 20-year retired veteran of the US Army, Mike graduated from the United States Military Academy, West Point in 1990 and spent half of his career as an Infantry officer (1990-1999) and the other half as a Foreign Area Officer (1999-2010) for both the Middle East as well as Europe. He has served in a variety of analytical positions that include the Army Staff's Foreign Intelligence Directorate (2002-2005) and the Defense Intelligence Agency's Latin America/Europe/Eurasia Africa Directorate (2006-2008). He holds an M.A. in Middle East Studies and is fluent in Turkish.



Ms. Amy Webb

Professor, NYU Stern School of Business CEO, The Future Today Institute

Amy Webb advises CEOs of the world's most-admired companies, three-star admirals and generals, and the senior leadership of central banks and intergovernmental organizations. Founder of the Future Today Institute, a leading foresight and strategy firm that helps leaders and their organizations prepare for complex futures, Amy pioneered a data-driven, technology-led foresight methodology that is now used within hundreds of organizations. She is a professor of strategic foresight at the NYU Stern School of Business, where she developed and teaches the MBA course on strategic foresight. She is a Visiting Fellow at Oxford University's Säid School of Business, a Nonresident Senior Fellow in the Atlantic Council's GeoTech Center, a Fellow in the United States-Japan Leadership Program and a Foresight Fellow in the U.S. Government Accountability Office Center for Strategic Foresight. She was elected a life member to the Council on Foreign Relations and is a member of the Bretton Woods Committee. She is a member of the World Economic Forum where she serves on the Global Future Council on Media, Entertainment and Culture and the Stewardship Board of the Forum's Platform for Shaping the Future of Media, Entertainment and Culture. She was a Visiting Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, where her research received a national Sigma Delta Chi a ward. She was also a Delegate on the former U.S.-Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission, where she worked on the future of technology, media and international diplomacy. She is the author of several popular books, including The Big Nine: How the Tech Titans and Their Thinking Machines Could Warp Humanity, which was longlisted for the Financial Times & McKinsey Business Book of the Year award, shortlisted for the Thinkers50 Digital Thinking Award, and won the 2020 Gold Axiom Medal for the best book about business and technology, and The Signals Are Talking: Why Today's Fringe Is Tomorrow's Mainstream, which won the Thinkers50 Radar Award, was selected as one of Fast Company's Best Books of 2016, Amazon's best books 2016, and was the recipient of the 2017 Gold Axiom Medal for the best book about business and technology. Webb was named by Forbes as one of the five women changing the world, listed as the BBC's 100 Women of 2020, ranked on the Thinkers50 list of the 50 most influential management thinkers globally. Her latest book, The Genesis Machine, explores the futures of synthetic biology.



Ms. Sharon Weinberger

Author, "The Imagineers of War"

National Security and Foreign Policy Editor

Wall Street Journal

Sharon Weinberger is the national security and foreign policy editor at The Wall Street Journal. Previously, she was the Washington, D.C., bureau chief for Yahoo New, and before that, the executive editor for news at Foreign Policy magazine.

Her third book, published in 2017 by Knopf, is "The Imagineers of War: The Untold Story of DARPA, the Pentagon Agency That Changed the World." She has held fellowships at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, MIT's Knight Science Journalism program, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the International Reporting Project at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

She has written on military science and technology for the New York Times, New York Magazine, the Washington Post, the Financial Times, Wired magazine, Nature, BBC, Discover, and Slate, among other publications.



Ms. Charneta Samms

Chief Technology Officer

U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM)

Ms. Charneta Samms is the Chief Technology Officer at the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM). As a Senior Scientific Technical Manager (SSTM) in this role, Ms. Samms leads the development and execution of strategies, policies and initiatives that strengthen the integration of DEVCOM's multi-billion dollar research portfolio to tackle the Army's enduring modernization and readiness challenges.

Previously, Ms. Samms served as Chief of Plans and Programs at the DEVCOM) Army Research Laboratory (ARL) and as a human performance modeling expert who managed the development of the Improved Performance Research Integration Tool (IMPRINT), a task network modeling tool used to predict system performance as a function of human performance. She has over 25 years of civil service, with sixteen years of experience in using modeling, simulation and the principles of human factors engineering to design and evaluate military equipment and systems.



Thomas F. Greco

Director of Intelligence, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-2 U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command



Mr. Thomas F. Greco serves as the Director of Intelligence, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-2 for the U.S. Ar Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC G-2). This is a Tier Two Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service (DISES) position. He is the Army's lead for developing, defining, and applying curr and future threats and environments in support of Army leader development, concept development, capability design, training readiness, and experimentation. He also leads the Army's enterprises for Critical Thinking, Mad Scientist Initiative, University of Foreign Military & Cultural Studies, Foreign Mili Studies Office, Global Cultural Knowledge Network, and the Operational Environment Center. TRAD G-2 supports the Army's Combat Training Centers, deployed forces, all of the Army's educational institutions and capability development activities. Prior to his assignment as TRADOC's G-2, Mr. Grec served as the Special Assistant for Intelligence to the Commanding General and G-2 of U.S. Army Europe from 2004 to 2011 where he spearheaded the intelligence efforts of a forward deployed theate Army headquarters. Notably, from 2007 to 2008, Mr. Greco deployed to Iraq where he served as the Assistant CJ2 in Iraq, ensuring intelligence support to the entire Combined Joint Task Force during th highly successful Sunni Awakening that changed the course of the war there.

Before entering Civil Service, Mr. Greco served 22 years on active duty as an Army intelligence office a variety of important command and staff positions. Highlights include one year as the G-2 of Task Force Eagle in Bosnia where he provided multi- disciplined intelligence support to high visibility peace enforcement operations in the Balkans and as the G-2 of Task Force Falcon in Kosovo. He also spen time as the Military Advisor to the START and Defense and Space negotiations in Geneva, Switzerlan In addition, he commanded units in the 10th Mountain Division and served in other key intelligence positions throughout the Army.

Mr. Greco holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (with honors) from Hunter College, City University of New York, a Master of Military Arts and Sciences from the U.S. Army Command and Staff College, and a Master of Military Arts and Sciences from the School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS). He attend the Intelligence Senior Fellows Program and is a graduate of the Executive Leadership Excellence Program run by the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University.

Mr. Greco has received numerous awards and honors throughout his career. In 2016, Mr. Greco was awarded the Presidential Rank Award, Meritorious Rank, Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Services. As a civil servant Mr. Greco received the Civilian Meritorious Service Medal, the Superior Service Medal and the Commander's Award for Civilian Service. As a military officer, he was awarde the Legion of Merit and multiple awards of the Defense and Army Meritorious Service Medals. He also received the George C. Marshall Award ("The White Briefcase") as the Distinguished Honor Graduate from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.



Mrs. Lisa C. Bennett

Senior Intelligence Advisor TRADOC, DCS G-2



Mrs. Lisa C. Bennett serves as the Senior Intelligence Advisor for the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-2. This is a Tier One Defense Intelligence Senior Level (DISL) position. She serves as the Senior Intelligence Advisor and is responsible for advising the Commanding General, Combined Arms Center and the Commanding General, United States Army Training and Doctrine Command on the proper application of intelligence to support Training and Doctrine Development Models and Simulation. Mrs. Bennett has been a civilian and military intelligence officer for 38 years. She has served in intelligence organizations at all echelons from tactical to joint, including assignments as the first Director, Army Open Source Center (U.S. Army INSCOM); Senior Technical Advisor – Cyber, 782nd Military Intelligence Battalion; G-2-Forward, 3rd Army (Kuwait); Director, MNF-I CJ2 Intelligence Resource and Sustainment (Baghdad); Director, Theater Ground Intelligence Center-Central (Third Army); Commander, 742nd Military Intelligence Battalion and the U.S. Army Technical Analysis and Control Element (ATCAE) (U.S. Army INSCOM); Tactics Branch Chief, U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence.

CAREER CHRONOLOGY:

- 2017-2021: Director, Detachment 51 and the Army Open Source Center, U.S. Intelligence and Security Command, Fort Gordon, Georgia
- 2013-2017: Senior Intelligence Officer assigned to the Signal Center of Excellence Tiger Team developing the concept for the Cyber Center of Excellence and U.S. Army Cyber School and Senior Liaison Officer, U.S. Intelligence and Security Command, Fort Gordon, Georgia
- 2011-2013: Senior Technical Advisor, Cyberspace Operations, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade, U.S. Intelligence and Security Command, Fort Gordon, Georgia
- 2010-2011: Deputy G-2, Intelligence and Security, 7th Signal Command, U.S. Network Enterprise Command, U.S. Intelligence and Security Command, Fort Gordon, Georgia
- 2008-2010: Colonel, U.S. Army, Deputy G-2 (Atlanta), Chief G2 Intelligence Plans, G-2 Forward (Kuwait), Third U.S. Army
- 2007-2008: Colonel, U.S. Army, Director, Intelligence Resource and Sustainment, Combined-Joint 2, Multi-National Force-Iraq, Baghdad, Iraq
- 2006-2007: Student, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania
- 2005-2006: Lieutenant Colonel, Director, Theater Ground Intelligence Center-Central, 513th
 Military Intelligence Brigade, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, Fort Gordon, Georgia
- 2003-2005: Lieutenant Colonel, Commander, 742nd Military Intelligence Battalion, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, Fort Meade, Maryland
- 1994-2003: U.S. Army Officer, Various



Mr. Ali Wyne

Senior Analyst, Global Macro-Geopolitics Eurasia Group

Ali Wyne is a senior analyst with Eurasia Group's Global Macro-Geopolitics practice, focusing on US-China relations and great-power competition. He has served as a junior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a research assistant at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, and a policy analyst at the RAND Corporation. Ali has also been a nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security and a nonresident fellow at the Modern War Institute. He received dual bachelor's degrees in management science and political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and earned his master in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School.

Ali is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a David Rockefeller fellow with the Trilateral Commission, and a security fellow with the Truman National Security Project. He also serves as a member of Foreign Policy for America's Board of Directors and as a member of the American Pakistan Foundation's Leadership Council. An avid coffee drinker, Ali continues to expand his collection of coffee mugs, cups, and tumblers.



Brigadier General Jasper Jeffers III

Deputy Director for Special Operations and Counter-Terrorism J-3, Joint Staff

BG Jasper Jeffers is an infantry officer from Ripplemead, Vrginia who currently serves as the Deputy Director for Special Operations and Counter-Terrorism, J-3, Joint Staff. He received his commission through ROTC at Virginia Tech in 1996. He served in a variety of tactical assignments in infantry, Ranger, and special operations units throughout his career. These include rifle platoon leader in the 10th Mountain Division, Ranger platoon leader and company executive officer in the 1st Ranger Battalion, Commander of B Company, 1/5 IN (Stryker), Commander of A Company, 2nd Ranger Battalion, and command of other special operations units as a major and lieutenant colonel. He commanded the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington as part of the 7th Infantry Division and was most recently the Deputy Commanding General for the 3rd Infantry Division. Col. Jeffers has numerous operational deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, and other locations throughout the Middle East.



Dr. Jason Sherwin

Co-founder and CEO deCervo

Jason Sherwin, Ph.D. is a founder and currently serves as CEO of deCervo, a neuroscience tech company he founded with his research partner, Jordan Muraskin, Ph.D. Since starting in 2014, deCervo has provided cognitive training programs using neuroimaging and customized phone apps to over 15 Major League Baseball organizations, over 60,000 baseball and softball players worldwide, the umpires of the Major Leagues, and the officials of the National Hockey League. deCervo has been an Army research grant recipient since 2017 and Sherwin himself has done contract research for the Army Research Laboratory going back to 2011. Continuing to apply its novel approach to decision training, deCervo is currently launching apps in law enforcement and tennis training to complement its suite of five other apps for decision training.



Mr. Chris Valentine

CEO at Adeo InterActive
Founder/CEO of Internet of Senses Institute

Chris Valentine is the founder of the Internet of Senses Institute, a collective of thought leaders, inventors, and early adopters dedicated to building a vibrant community of entrepreneurs. executives, policymakers, and researchers ready to propel the innovation promised by the digitization of the five senses — hearing, sight, smell, taste, and touch. Launched in 2021, the Institute embodies Chris' passion for bringing communities together to enhance and move forward the development of technology innovation. In addition to the Institute, Chris is the founder and CEO of Adeo InterActive, a full service event production firm based in Austin, Texas. In his 25 years of experience in event production, Chris has created a variety of products designed to help companies achieve their unique, tech-related strategic goals while managing high-profile global innovation events for prominent clients, including AARP, Kauffman Foundation, NASA, Turner Entertainment, and Inventures Canada. Chris also serves as the Event Producer for SXSW Pitch, a cutting-edge startup competition where companies from around the world compete and showcase leading technology innovations. Since 2009, SXSW Pitch has showcased more than 572 startups, with 82% of them receiving combined funding of almost \$14.5 billion and 17% being acquired by Google, British Telecom, Hungton Post, Apple, Twitter, Live Nation, OpenTable, Facebook, and Harmon. Some of the prestigious alumni include Siri, Klout, ICON, Hipmunk, Wildfire, Tubemogul, Foodspotting, and Tango. Previously, Chris developed and published a monthly Global Startup Network newsletter, that provided information and data on startups and technology ecosystems from around the world, sourced from 200+ international news sources. An Austin resident since 1988, Chris volunteers at several non-profit organizations. Since 2006, Chris has served as the Executive Director for the Busby Foundation, a non-profit that provides support and resources for Central Texas families who are facing ALS (also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease). In this role, Chris leads the organization's efforts to increase awareness about the disease and raise funds primarily through the charity's two annual events – the Lone Star Crawfish Festival and the Rock & Roll Golf Classic. Today the organization has over \$1.2 million in its gifting fund and has gifted over \$1 million to ALS families in the Central Texas area. Chris is a graduate of Concordia University Texas, where he earned Bachelor of Arts degrees in both Communication and Behavioral Science. In his free time, Chris enjoys spending time with his wife and son, watching English Premier League soccer and classic movies, and traveling the world.



Mr. James F. Benn Jr.

Deputy Director

Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate

Mr. James F. Benn is a native of Birmingham, Alabama and a 1975 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. While on active duty, his assignments included tours as a platoon leader and battery commander in the 2d Battalion, 57th Air Defense Artillery, Ansbach, Germany; operations officer in the 205th Aviation Company in Mainz, Germany; staff aviation officer for the 4th Transportation Command, Frankfurt, Germany; company commander, A Company, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, Schwaebisch-Hall, Germany; aviation officer for Seventh Corps during Operation Desert Storm; director of logistics operations, Aviation and Troop Command, St. Louis, Missouri; and deputy brigade commander, 6th U.S. Cavalry Brigade, Camp Humphrey, Korea.

He retired from the Army in 2000 and became a Department of the Army Civilian employee as the Deputy Director of the Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate, Combined Arms Center, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. In this capacity, he has overseen the reengineering for the U.S. Army doctrine program and has also traveled abroad to lead efforts to establish doctrine programs in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Republic of Georgia, Albania, Botswana, Kosovo, Germany, South Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, Colombia and Peru. He is the Chairman of the NATO Land Interoperability and Standardization Working Group.

Mr. Benn is a graduate of the Air Defense Artillery Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Rotary Wing Aviator Course, and the Army Command and General Staff College. His military awards and decorations include the Jose Maria Cordova Award for Military Merit from the Colombian Armed Forces, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal. He holds a Master's Degree from Webster University in Human Resources Development.

He is married to the former Jacqueline Elaine Prestia of Kansas City, Missouri.



LTC Mark Askew

Future Force Branch Chief
Directorate of Concepts
Army Futures Command

LTC Mark Askew currently serves as the Future Force Branch Chief in the Directorate of Concepts at Army Futures Command in Austin, TX. As the Future Force Branch Chief, LTC Askew leads a team responsible for developing the next Army Operating Concept that will guide Army senior leaders as they develop the force structure and capabilities needed to adapt to changes in our operating environment.

LTC Mark Askew grew up in Tampa, Fl. and entered active duty in 2005 after commissioning at West Point as an armor officer. LTC Askew is a FA59 with assignments to Fort Riley, Fort Hood, West Point, Shaw AFB, and Austin, TX.

Education:

2005: Bachelors from USMA

2015: MA from Texas A&M University

2018: ABD from Texas A&M University

2018: BSAP

Key Developmental Assignments:

- 1) USARCENT G5 (2019-2021): LTC Askew worked on topics related to doctrine, budgeting/programming, OPLAN development, and was the lead author for USARCENT's Theater Strategy and Theater Campaign Plans.
- 2) West Point (2015-2018): While assigned to West Point, LTC Askew taught Military History and the History of Military Theory. LTC Askew also earned promotion to Assistant Professor, received the Department of History's teaching award, and also achieved ABD status for his PhD.
- 3) Company Grade Experiences (2005-2015): LTC Askew served as a tank platoon leader, scout platoon leader, company executive officer, company commander, and as a BN S-3 twice. LTC Askew commanded C/3-8 CAV and HHC 3BSTB, 3BCT, 1CD.
- 4) Deployment Experience: LTC Askew served in Mosul, Iraq from OCT 2007 to JAN 2009 and then closed down operations in Iraq in 2011 (end of Operation New Dawn).



Dr. Heather Venable

Course Director, Air Power Strategy and Operations

Department of Airpower, USAF Air Command and Staff College

Author of "How the Few Became the Proud

Dr. Heather P. Venable is an Associate Professor of Military and Security Studies in the Department of Airpower and the Airpower Strategy and Operations Course Director. She has taught Airpower II, and electives on close air support and the historical experience of combat. She also has served as the Airpower II course director. As a visiting professor at the US Naval Academy, she taught naval and Marine Corps history. She graduated with a BA in History from Texas A&M University and an MA in American History from the University of Hawai'i. She received her PhD in military history from Duke University. She also has attended the Space Operations Course as well as the Joint Firepower Course. She has written How the Few Became the Proud: The Making of the Marine Corps' Mythos, 1874-1918 (Naval Institute Press, 2019). Previous published work includes "'There's Nothing that a Marine Can't Do': Publicity and the Marine Corps, 1905-1917" in New Interpretations in Naval History: Selected Papers from the Sixteenth Naval History Symposium and "The China Marines and the Crucible of the Warrior Mythos, 1900-1941" in Crucibles: Selected Readings in U.S. Marine Corps History. She is also a non-resident fellow at Marine Corps University's Krulak Center. Her professional service includes service as a managing editor for The Strategy Bridge. Her current research centers on intersections between theory and pre-war thinking and the application of airpower in combat.



Beth Conlin

Technical Business Manager, Amazon Web Services
Senior Program Manager – Military Spouse Programs

An Army spouse, Beth has been working to improve employment opportunities for military spouses since an overseas move in 2013 forced her to quit her job, putting both her professional development and family stability at risk. A vocal advocate for military spouse employment, Beth has intimate working knowledge of the obstacles military spouses face in the workforce and has developed solutions to help reduce employment challenges. Recognized as a subject matter expert, she has contributed to panel discussions, authored op-eds, and been called on to support various members of Congress with military spouse initiatives. Now at Amazon, Beth is growing her career, after two years working on the Global Military Affairs team she has moved on to AWS as a technical business manager. Regardless of her title, she works to connect this untapped talent pool to the workforce and highlights strategic partnerships that elevate the impacts military spouses have as a diverse workforce. Outside of her work for Amazon, she is an Alumni of the Bush Institutes Stand-To Veteran leadership program, an advisor to MilitarySpouseJobs.org and the Military Officers Association of America, is the Chairwoman of the board for the Military Spouse Chamber of Commerce, and sits on several DoD and White House working groups focused on reducing employment challenges.



Dr. Jake Sotiriadis

Director, The Center for Futures Intelligence
National Intelligence University

Jake is Director of the Center for Futures Intelligence at National Intelligence University (NIU). He is a member of the NIU research faculty and teaches courses on international relations, intelligence tradecraft, and geopolitical futures. Jake is a frequent speaker on global futures and intelligence and founded the US Air Force's Strategic Foresight and Futures Team. He is also an advisor to the State Department and teaches courses at the Foreign Service Institute. Jake's work spans the nexus of disruptive technology, geopolitical risk, and futures intelligence. He leads a team that helps senior leaders in the Intelligence Community, the Department of Defense, and the State Department embrace uncertainty and build anticipatory thinking.



Dr. Kathleen McInnis

Senior Fellow, International Security Program & Director, Smart Women, Smart Power Initiative

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

Kathleen J. McInnis is a senior fellow and director of the Smart Women, Smart Power Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Her research areas include the intersection of gender and national security; global security strategy; defense policy; and transatlantic security. Before rejoining the Center, she served as a specialist in international security at the Congressional Research Service (CRS), where she served as a senior expert to Congress on strategic issues including defense policy, military operations, civilian-military relations, irregular warfare, and global strategy. Prior to CRS, she worked as a research consultant at Chatham House in London, writing on NATO and transatlantic security matters. From 2006 to 2009, Dr. McInnis served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Policy), working on NATO operations in Afghanistan. During her last time working at CSIS from 2004 to 2006, Dr. McInnis analyzed U.S. nuclear weapons strategy, European security, and transatlantic relations. She also worked as a researcher in the UK House of Commons, focusing on NATO, the European Union, and U.S.-UK political-military relations, from 2001 to 2003. Dr. McInnis is widely published; her articles have featured in major domestic and international outlets. She is the author of two books: How and Why States Defect from Contemporary Military Coalition (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019) and the novel The Heart of War: Misadventures in the Pentagon (Post Hill Press, 2018). Dr. McInnis was awarded her MSc in international relations from the London School of Economics and completed her PhD in war studies at King's College London.