

# BOARD OF VISITORS

NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY

# BIOGRAPPHIES

NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY



MAY 24-25, 2022

FORT LESLEY J. McNAIR ■ WASHINGTON, DC



# BOARD OF VISITORS

## NATIONAL DEFENSE

### UNIVERSITY

Washington, D.C.

*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

## NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY

### BOARD OF VISITORS AND NDU SENIOR LEADERSHIP

#### I. BOARD OF VISITORS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>Vice Admiral Jody A. Breckenridge, USCG (Ret)</b> .....      | 3  |
| <b>Lieutenant General Charles W. Hooper, USA (Ret)</b> .....    | 4  |
| <b>Dr. Christopher B. Howard</b> .....                          | 5  |
| <b>Dr. Suzanne Logan</b> .....                                  | 6  |
| <b>Colonel Nora Ramirez Marcos, USA (Ret)</b> .....             | 8  |
| <b>Ambassador Bismarck Myrick (Ret)—Board Vice Chair</b> .....  | 9  |
| <b>Dr. DJ Patil</b> .....                                       | 10 |
| <b>The Honorable Timothy J. Roemer</b> .....                    | 11 |
| <b>General Norton A. Schwartz, USAF (Ret)—Board Chair</b> ..... | 13 |
| <b>The Honorable Debra S. Wada</b> .....                        | 14 |

#### II. NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY SENIOR LEADERSHIP

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>Lieutenant General Michael T. Plehn, USAF (NDU President)</b> .....  | 16 |
| <b>Ambassador John Hoover (Senior Vice President)</b> .....   | 17 |
| <b>Dr. John W. Yaeger, USN (Ret) (Vice President for Accreditation and Strategic Planning)</b> .....                                  | 18 |
| <b>Dr. Cynthia A. Watson (Interim Provost)</b> .....  | 19 |
| <b>Ms. Kathryn Kolbe (Chief Operating Officer)</b> .....  | 20 |
| <b>Brigadier General Joy Curriera, USA (Commandant, Dwight D. Eisenhower School of National Security and Resource Strategy)</b> ..... | 21 |
| <b>Brigadier General Jeffrey Hurlbert, USAF (Commandant, National War College)</b> .....  | 23 |
| <b>Brigadier General Voris W. McBurnette, USAR (Commandant, Joint Forces Staff College)</b> ..  | 24 |
| <b>Dr. Cassandra C. Lewis (Chancellor, College of Information and Cyberspace)</b> .....   | 25 |
| <b>Ambassador Greta C. Holtz (Ret) (Chancellor, College of International Security Affairs)</b> ..                                     | 26 |
| <b>Dr. Laura Junor Pulzone (Director, Research and Strategic Support)</b> .....   | 27 |
| <b>Rear Admiral Gerard M. Mauer, Jr., USN (Ret) (Director, CAPSTONE/KEYSTONE/PINNACLE)</b> .....                                      | 28 |



# BOARD OF VISITORS



# BOARD OF VISITORS

## NATIONAL DEFENSE

### UNIVERSITY

Washington, D.C.

*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

## **Vice Admiral Jody A. Breckenridge** ***United States Coast Guard (Retired)***



Jody A. Breckenridge serves as the Chair of the California Military Council serving the state, military facilities, military personnel and their families serving in California and Defense Support Communities. As a board member, she serves the following agencies and nonprofits: Association for Rescue at Sea, Council for a Strong America, Marines Memorial Foundation, Mission Readiness: Military Leaders for Kids, Oakland Military Institute, San Francisco Fleet Week Association and U.S. Vets.

Ms. Breckenridge serves on the Board of First Command Financial Services and on an advisory Board to the Federal Employee Program Division of Blue Cross Blue Shield.

A retired three-star, Vice Admiral Breckenridge completed a 34-year career in the United States Coast Guard. In her last assignment as Pacific Area Commander, she served as one of the two senior field commanders, directing all operations across 73 million square miles of the Pacific. Additional flag assignments included Director of

Strategic Transformation guiding the largest reorganization and business practice realignment in the modern Coast Guard, Assistant Commandant for Human Resources with responsibility for all the workforces, pay and benefits, healthcare, awards and recognitions, housing, training and education, and Acquisition Official for training and human capital. As the Eleventh District Commander, the regional command achieved record drug interdictions including the arrest of the head of the Arellano Felix cartel. Her initial flag assignment was as Maintenance and Logistics Command Pacific leading all support and logistic systems supporting the Pacific Area Commander. As a flag officer, the Admiral participated in State Department programs in the countries of Georgia and Azerbaijan. She was a US representative for the North Pacific Coast Guard Forum and led meetings with the Russian Border Service.

Vice Admiral Breckenridge earned a Masters in National Security Strategy and Resource Management from ICAF (now the Dwight D Eisenhower School) of the National Defense University and a Masters of Public Policy from the University of Maryland (Honors). She was awarded a BS in Biology from Virginia Tech.





*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

## **Lieutenant General Charles W. Hooper** ***United States Army (Retired)***



Lieutenant General (Retired) Charles Hooper is one of America's most distinguished soldier-diplomats and known as a conceptual and analytical thinker, a consummate negotiator, a trusted advisor who effectively navigates complex, sensitive issues and challenges, and a catalyst for collaboration and cooperation. He is well-known and widely respected within the Departments of State and Defense, the Intelligence Community and among national security scholars.

Lieutenant General Hooper has over 40 years of experience in security policy formulation and execution; strategic intelligence; security cooperation; sensitive negotiations; foreign military sales; education and transformational leadership. A fluent Chinese linguist with almost seven years living and working in China, many considered him one of the Nation's foremost experts on the Chinese military and defense industries.

In addition to operational assignments with the 25th Infantry and 82nd Airborne Divisions and teaching Chinese Foreign Policy at the Naval Postgraduate School, Lieutenant General Hooper had three high profile diplomatic assignments including serving as the U.S. Defense Attaché—the senior U.S. military officer, in both China and Egypt. Lieutenant General Hooper also served as the senior DOD strategist and planner (J5) for U.S. Africa Command and deputy strategy and plans director for U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (Deputy J5), and as the senior China and Taiwan policy official in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

In his final military assignment (2017-2020), he was Director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, responsible for the overseas sale of all weapons, military equipment, support services and training packages for the United States Government. In that capacity he served as the Department of Defense expert on U.S. security assistance funding and U.S. foreign military sales.

Lieutenant General Hooper is a graduate of the United States Military Academy, West Point (BS), and Harvard University Kennedy School of Government (MPA) where he received the Don K. Price Award for Academic Excellence and Public Service. He also holds a certificate in Chinese Language and Literature from the British Ministry of Defense Chinese Language School and returned to Harvard University as a post-graduate research fellow at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs studying U.S.-China military relations.

Among his numerous honors, Lieutenant General Hooper was awarded the National Defense Medal by the French Government and was the first Army student-officer and first Harvard Kennedy School of Government student ever selected to give a Harvard University Commencement Address.

Lieutenant General Hooper is now a Senior Counselor with The Cohen Group, the Washington, D.C. consulting firm founded by former Secretary of Defense William Cohen. He is also a member of the National Bureau of Asian Research Board of Directors, a Senior Fellow at Harvard University's Belfer Center, a senior non-resident scholar at the Atlantic Council, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



# BOARD OF VISITORS

## NATIONAL DEFENSE

### UNIVERSITY

Washington, D.C.

*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

## **Dr. Christopher B. Howard**

***Lieutenant Colonel, United States Air Force Reserve (Retired)***



Dr. Chris Howard is the executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Arizona State University Public Enterprise.

Howard works closely with President Crow and the other executive vice presidents to coordinate enterprise-wide initiatives and advancement, oversee ASU Enterprise affiliates, advance new enterprise relationships and opportunities, and integrate ASU Enterprise planning and strategy.

He is a distinguished graduate of the United States Air Force Academy and earned a doctorate from the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar. He also earned an MBA with distinction from Harvard Business School.

Howard's military career included service as a helicopter pilot and an intelligence officer, and he was awarded a Bronze Star for service in Afghanistan.

Previously, Howard served as the eighth president of Robert Morris University in suburban Pittsburgh beginning on February 1, 2016. Under Howard's leadership, RMU became a preferred strategic partner for corporations, organizations, and professionals in the Pittsburgh region and beyond. RMU also completed the largest capital project and comprehensive campaign in the university's 100-year history. In 2021, U.S. News & World Report ranked RMU No. 48 on the magazine's list of Best Value Schools, a reflection of RMU's high academic quality and affordable price.

Before serving at RMU, Howard was President of Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia. During Howard's tenure at Hampden-Sydney College, the college grew enrollment, improved diversity, boosted retention, and raised its endowment.

Previously, he served as a vice president at the University of Oklahoma, and also had a successful corporate career with GE and Bristol-Myers Squibb.

Dr. Howard is also a former member of the College Football Playoff Selection Committee.

His wife, Barbara Noble Howard, serves as an Arizona State University Fellow for nonprofit leadership and hails from Johannesburg, South Africa. The Howards have two adult sons, Cohen (graduate of the The University of the South) and Joshua (graduate of Middlebury College).



*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

## **Dr. Suzanne Logan**



Dr. Suzanne Logan retired from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) on 26 April 2022 where she was a member of the Senior Executive Service and most recently served as the Senior Advisor for the Associate Director, Employee Services. For the prior nine years at OPM, she served as Director of the Federal Executive Institute, the Director of the Center for Leadership Development (CLD) and the Deputy Associate Director of Human Resources Solutions. Operating within a yearly revolving-fund budget of over \$180M, she successfully led all aspects of the U.S. government's career-long professional leadership and management development programs. CLD's Continuum of Leadership and Professional Development, created by Dr. Logan, was delivered through FEI, the two management development centers in Washington, D.C. and Denver, Colorado, the SES Leading EDGE program, USALearning, OPM's Innovation Design Lab, the Presidential Management Fellows program, the Presidential Executive Fellows program, the International Leadership Development program, Performance and Process Improvement program, and the Federal HR Institute. Each year under her leadership

over 18 million development courses or programs were completed by the Federal workforce through these courses or programs.

Before joining FEI, Dr. Logan served as the U.S. Air Force's Chief Academic Officer for Officer Education, Spatz Center and the Chief Academic Officer, Air War College at Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. She served on the J7 JPME educational advisory group, participated in updates to the CJCSI 1800 and led or participated in the joint accreditation processes of war colleges and staff colleges each year.

While working in private industry, Dr. Logan was Vice President of Academic Affairs for class.com, a private company formed by the University of Nebraska, where she held responsibilities for the development and delivery of a completely Internet-based worldwide academic program. Earlier, she served as a Regional Manager for Texas Instruments, Inc. where she developed training programs and oversaw the training for one-third of the country.

A seventeen-year academic administrator at Texas Tech University (TTU) and a member of the graduate faculty, Dr. Logan was the guiding force behind several groundbreaking academic initiatives, including the first virtual public school district in Texas, the university's first online Bachelor's and Master's degrees, and the largest kindergarten through Master's degree e-learning program in the country. She was one of the first members of Texas Tech's graduate faculty to teach courses using interactive video instruction and was the first to teach online courses over the worldwide web. She led the TTU to international prominence as a pacesetter in e-learning. Dr. Logan served regularly for over a decade as a peer consultant for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Middle States Association during her university tenure and again while serving at Air University.

Dr. Logan holds a bachelor's degree from Midwestern State University and both a master's degree and a doctoral degree in higher education administration from TTU. She is a recipient of the TTU Distinguished Service Award. She has



# BOARD OF VISITORS

## NATIONAL DEFENSE

### UNIVERSITY

Washington, D.C.

*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

completed certificate programs from Harvard University, University of Georgia, University of North Carolina, and Center for Creative Leadership. Dr. Logan is an Academy Fellow of the congressionally chartered National Academy of Public Administration.

She serves as a member of the National Defense University Board of Visitors, the US Coast Guard Academy's Board of Trustees, and the Federal Acquisition Institute's Board of Directors. Dr. Logan has provided consultation services to organizations such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), George Washington University, the US Air Force, the government of Colombia, and the European Union. She has written and presented extensively to national and international audiences on the topics of e-learning and career-long development.





*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

**Colonel Nora Ramirez Marcos**  
***United States Army (Retired)***



Colonel (Retired) Nora R. Marcos serves as a Service Delivery Leader at Cisco where she is responsible for delivery of Advanced Services in support of the Army, the Defense Information Systems Agency and other DoD agencies. She recently retired after a 29-year career serving as an Army Signal Officer.

In her final role as a Soldier, she served as the Chief of Staff of the Network Cross Functional Team where she coordinated and synchronized the operations of a matrixed, cross-functional team that developed and executed the Army's Network modernization priorities. Prior to this, Nora served as Division Chief for Force Development - Mission Command Division, Army G-8 for two years. In this role, she developed the Army's investment strategy for a \$19B portfolio supporting information technology, communications, defensive cyber and business systems to enable Army modernization. During 2015-16, she served as a visiting military fellow at The Washington Institute.

Nora also commanded the Defense Information Systems Agency, Continental United States (DISA-CONUS), which is responsible for provisioning, managing and defending the Department of Defense network. Previously, Nora served as the Army's senior communications officer in Japan, where she provided all communications support for U.S. Army Japan and executed bilateral relations with the Japanese Signal and Cyber forces.

Since joining the Army in 1990, she commanded soldiers at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels, deploying twice to Iraq in leadership positions. During her 2009 deployment, she commanded a thousand-Soldier task force with the 3rd Infantry Division near Tikrit.

Nora holds a master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the National War College, an M.B.A. from the Texas A&M University - Central Texas, a bachelor's degree in management from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and a certificate in National Security Policy Studies from MIT (Seminar XXI). Nora received the AUSA Writing Award while at the War College and the inaugural Art Crowley Award for Servant Leadership in Cisco (Cisco - US Public Sector).



# BOARD OF VISITORS

## NATIONAL DEFENSE

### UNIVERSITY

Washington, D.C.

*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

## **Ambassador Bismarck Myrick** *(Retired)* **Board Vice Chair**



Ambassador (Ret.) Bismarck Myrick, is Ambassador-in-Residence and Lecturer of Political Science and History at Old Dominion University. He completed a career in the Foreign Service of the U.S. The President twice nominated him to serve as Ambassador (Lesotho 1995; Liberia 1999). He also headed the U.S. Diplomatic Mission in Durban, South Africa -- arriving there in 1990, the year Nelson Mandela was released from 27 years of imprisonment. He later headed the Diplomatic Mission in Cape Town, South Africa. His diplomatic assignments included periods when he served as Dean of the Diplomatic Corps. In addition, he served as Desk Officer for Somalia; chaired an interagency working group on strategic nuclear policy; and, as Deputy Director, managed U.S. security assistance policies for South America and the Caribbean. He earned the Department of State's Superior Honor Award.

He has traveled to over 40 African countries and represented the U.S. at the swearing in of South Africa's first democratic parliament. The Kingdom of Lesotho conferred on him the Kingdom's highest honor to a non-citizen. Liberia's major newspapers and civil society organizations named him "Diplomat of the Year" or "Man of the Year" for three consecutive years. The City Council appointed him Goodwill Ambassador for Goree Island, Senegal. He was Political Officer in Liberia during the government of Samuel Doe. He completed regular study projects in southern and western Africa: 2006-2014; South Africa, 2015; and, Senegal and South Africa in 2016, 2017, and 2018.

Ambassador Myrick also completed a career in the U.S. Army. Starting as a private, he rose through the ranks to become a field grade officer. He served in Vietnam, Korea, Japan, Germany and Ethiopia. He earned the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars for heroism in combat, two Bronze Stars for meritorious service in a combat zone, the Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Parachutist Badge and Combat Infantryman Badge. An Army Foreign Area Officer (Africa Specialist), he was Director of African Studies at the School of International Studies, Fort Bragg, NC. He is in the National Infantry Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, GA. He was the ODU 2011 Veterans Day Honoree and Featured Speaker.

He graduated from the University of Tampa with honors and earned an M.A. degree from Syracuse University. Spelman College awarded him a Doctor of Humane Letters degree. He is co-author of *Three Aspects of Crisis in Colonial Kenya*; author of "The United States and Liberia" in *The African Experience: Past, Present, and Future* and author of scores of official documents. Portsmouth, VA, his home town, named two streets in his honor and selected him as a "Portsmouth Notable" – the city's highest honor.

Active in community service, he is on a number of boards, such as the World Affairs Council. The highly respected New Chesapeake Men for Progress Foundation selected him for the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award. He is married to Marie Pierre Myrick and they live in Chesapeake. His children are Attorney Bismarck Myrick, Jr., Wesley Todd Myrick and Allison Elizabeth Myrick Sanders.



*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

## **Dr. DJ Patil**



DJ Patil has held a variety of roles in Academia, Industry, and Government. He currently is a board member for Devoted Health, a Senior Fellow at the Belfer Center at the Harvard Kennedy School, and an Advisor to Venrock Partners.

Dr. Patil was appointed by President Obama to be the first U.S. Chief Data Scientist where his efforts led to the establishment of nearly 40 Chief Data Officer roles across the Federal government. He also established new health care programs including the Precision Medicine Initiative and the Cancer Moonshot, new criminal justice reforms including the Data-Driven Justice and Police Data Initiatives that cover more than 94 million Americans, as well as leading the national data efforts. He also has been active in national security and for his efforts was awarded by Secretary Carter the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service which is the highest honor the department bestows on a civilian.

In industry, he was CTO for Devoted Health, led the product teams at RelateIQ which was acquired by Salesforce, was founding board member for Crisis Text Line which works to use new technologies to provide on demand mental and crisis support, and was a member of the venture firm Greylock Partners. He also was Chief Scientist, Chief Security Officer and Head of Analytics and Data Product Teams at the LinkedIn Corporation where he co-coined the term Data Scientist. He has also held a number of roles at Skype, PayPal, and eBay.

As a member of the faculty at the University of Maryland, his research focused on nonlinear dynamics and chaos theory and he helped start a major research initiative on numerical weather prediction. As an AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow for the Department of Defense, Dr. Patil directed new efforts to leverage social network analysis and the melding of computational and social sciences to anticipate emerging threats to the US. He has also co-chaired a major review of US efforts to prevent bioweapons proliferation in Central Asia and co-founded the Iraqi Virtual Science Library (IVSL). In 2014 he was selected by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader and is also a Member of the Council of Foreign Relations.

Dr. Patil has a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from the University of Maryland College Park and a B.A. in Mathematics from UC San Diego.



# BOARD OF VISITORS

## NATIONAL DEFENSE

### UNIVERSITY

Washington, D.C.

*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

## The Honorable Timothy J. Roemer



Tim Roemer, former U.S. Member of Congress, 9/11 Commissioner, and U.S. Ambassador to India, is Executive Director and Strategic Counselor at APCO Worldwide. He works with clients on government relations and provides strategic advice. With his background in international trade, education policy, and national security, Ambassador Roemer is a trusted consensus-builder, problem solver and international expert.

In 2009, he was appointed by President Obama to serve as U.S. Ambassador to India, one of America's largest diplomatic missions. During his time in office, Ambassador Roemer helped move India from being America's 25th largest trading partner to 12th. He oversaw the signing of the Counterterrorism Cooperation Initiative, which broadened U.S. – India coordination in intelligence, homeland security, border security, money laundering, and terrorist financing. He worked with the U.S. Government to assist India on the Global Center for Nuclear Energy Partnership. Ambassador Roemer strengthened U.S. cooperation with India in technology

transfers and sales in the defense and space industries.

Ambassador Roemer was an early endorser of President Obama and President Biden and actively supported both successful campaigns. He has participated regularly in TV interviews with CNN, MSNBC, Bloomberg News, NDTV, IndiaToday, CNBC, Voice of America, and other outlets in which he has spoken on U.S. political issues and international relations. He has contributed numerous articles and op-eds to the Washington Post, New York Times, and South Bend Tribune on domestic and international issues.

Earlier, Ambassador Roemer proudly served for 12 years in the United States Congress as Representative for Indiana's 3rd Congressional District. Coming from a family of educators, he fought to improve access, standards, and achievement for American education. He was known for his bipartisan work on getting laws passed and for his insights on the Intelligence Committee. Ambassador Roemer was appointed to serve on the 9/11 Commission and helped pass the Commission's recommendations into law. Later, he was a member of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy's Presidential Task Force on Combating the Ideology of Radical Extremism, the 21st Century National Parks Commission, the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism, and the 9/11 FBI Review Commission.

Ambassador Roemer is a member of the Aspen Institute's US-India Strategic Dialogue, and a board member of the US India Strategic Partnership Forum (<https://usispf.org/>). He is also a strategic adviser to Issue One (<https://issueone.org/>), a non-profit organization working on a non-partisan basis to address the insidious impact of big money on American democracy. He has traveled around the country to speak on this issue at conferences and public venues. From 2018 to 2021, he has participated in annual U.S.-China Track II Strategic Dialogues, at which leading U.S. and Chinese experts discuss political and economic issues of critical importance to the bilateral relationship.

# BOARD OF VISITORS

## NATIONAL DEFENSE

---

## UNIVERSITY

Washington, D.C.



*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

He completed his bachelor's degree at the University of California at San Diego. He earned a master's and a doctoral degree in American government from the University of Notre Dame, with his dissertation on: "The Senior Executive Service: Retirement and Public Personnel Policy". Both institutions have recognized his achievements with distinguished alumnus awards.

Ambassador Roemer is married to Sally Johnston Roemer. They have four children, Patrick, Matthew, Sarah, and Grace and live in Great Falls, Virginia and attend St. Thomas à Becket Catholic Church. The Roemers have two rescue dogs named Hoosier and Willie. He collects first edition books and overpriced baseball cards.





# BOARD OF VISITORS

## NATIONAL DEFENSE

### UNIVERSITY

Washington, D.C.

*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

## **General Norton A. Schwartz**

***United States Air Force (Retired)***  
***Board Chair***



Norton A. Schwartz serves as President of the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA), a nonprofit corporation operating in the public interest. IDA manages three Federally Funded Research and Development Centers that answer the most challenging U.S. security and science policy questions with objective analysis leveraging extraordinary scientific, technical, and analytic expertise. At IDA, General Schwartz (U.S. Air Force, retired) directs the activities of more than 1,000 scientists and technologists employed by IDA.

General Schwartz has a long and prestigious career of service and leadership that spans over 5 decades. He was most recently President and CEO of Business Executives for National Security (BENS). During his 6-year tenure at BENS, he was also a member of IDA's Board of Trustees.

Prior to retiring from the U.S. Air Force, General Schwartz served as the 19th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force from 2008 to 2012. He previously held senior joint positions as Director of the Joint Staff and as the Commander of the U.S. Transportation Command. He began his service as a pilot with the airlift evacuation out of Vietnam in 1975.

General Schwartz is a U.S. Air Force Academy graduate and holds a master's degree in business administration from Central Michigan University. He is also an alumnus of the Armed Forces Staff College and the National War College.

He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a 1994 Fellow of Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Seminar XXI. General Schwartz has been married to Suzie since 1981.



## **The Honorable Debra S. Wada**



Ms. Wada currently serves as CEO of Senshi Ame Advisors LLC, a government consulting firm that provides strategic advice to corporations and organizations seeking to engage with Congress and the Department of Defense. She also currently serves as the Executive Director for the Uniformed Services Family Health Plan Alliance, a consortium of former public health hospitals that provide health care to military beneficiaries and military retirees. Debra also serves as a Board Member for the Military Child Education Coalition and as a Advisory Member to the Service Year Alliance.

In 2017, Debra was appointed to the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service Commission, which was formed to review the Selective Service System and develop recommendations to improve the awareness, aspiration, and access to military, national and public service. From 2014 to 2017, Debra served as the Assistant Secretary of Manpower and Reserves Affairs for the United States Army. As the Assistant Secretary, she effectively managed

Army military, civilian and contractor personnel, training and readiness policies, including health care services, for over 1.2 million soldiers and Army civilians. She oversaw morale, welfare and recreation programs that supported over 2 million Army dependents.

Prior to her appointment by President Obama, Debra spent over 25 years in Congress, including over a decade of experience on the House Armed Services Committee where she served as Deputy Staff Director, Lead Military Personnel Staff, and Professional Staff Member.

Debra graduated from Drake University with a B.A. in Economics and Political Science.

---

**NDU  
SENIOR  
LEADERSHIP**



*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

**Lieutenant General Michael T. Plehn**  
**United States Air Force**  
**17<sup>th</sup> President**



Lieutenant General Mike Plehn is the 17<sup>th</sup> President of the National Defense University. As President of NDU, he oversees its five component colleges that offer graduate-level degrees and certifications in joint professional military education to over 2,000 U.S. military officers, civilian government officials, international military officers and industry partners annually.

Raised in an Army family, he graduated from Miami Southridge Senior High School in 1983 and attended the U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy with Military Distinction and a degree in Astronautical Engineering in 1988. He is a Distinguished Graduate of Squadron Officer School as well as the College of Naval Command and Staff, where he received a Master's Degree with Highest Distinction in National Security and Strategic Studies. He also holds a Master of Airpower Art and Science degree from the School of Advanced Airpower Studies, as well as a Master of Aerospace Science degree from Embry-

Riddle Aeronautical University.

Lt Gen Plehn has extensive experience in joint, interagency, and special operations, including: Middle East Policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, and four tours at the Combatant Command level to include U.S. European Command, U.S. Central Command, and twice at U.S. Southern Command, where he was most recently the Military Deputy Commander. He also served on the Air Staff in Strategy and Policy and as the speechwriter to the Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

Lt Gen Plehn is a master navigator with 2,200 flight hours in the AC-130H, AC-130U, U-28, MQ-1B, MQ-9, and F-16D. He has more than 350 combat hours supporting operations over Bosnia, Somalia, Haiti, Afghanistan, and Iraq. He has commanded special operations units at the squadron, group, and wing levels, and was formerly the Deputy Commander of Air Force Special Operations Command.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters, the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters, Aerial Achievement Medal with 4 oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Gallant Unit Citation, the Medal for Distinguished Service to the Colombian Military Forces and the White Nun Medal for Distinguished Actions to the Army and Republic of Guatemala.

An Eagle Scout and avid reader, he speaks passable Spanish. In their quiet time, Mike and his wife enjoy watching ice hockey and providing staff assistance to their two cats.



# SENIOR LEADERSHIP

## NATIONAL DEFENSE

### UNIVERSITY

Washington, D.C.

*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

## Ambassador John Hoover

### Senior Vice President



Ambassador John Hoover was named the Senior Vice President of the National Defense University (NDU) in June, 2021. Prior to that, he was the Acting Chancellor of the College of International Security Affairs (CISA) at NDU for one year from July, 2020. He is a career member of the United States Senior Foreign Service who began his career with the U.S. Department of State in 1988.

Before arriving at NDU, Hoover served as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan from 2017 to 2020. From 2014 to 2017, he served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Sierra Leone, where he helped lead the U.S. Government's successful response to the world's worst-ever Ebola outbreak. Before that, he was the Director of the Office of Regional and Security Affairs in the State Department's Bureau of African Affairs (2010-2013). Overseas, Hoover has served in Kampala, Uganda as Deputy Chief of Mission (2008-10); Nairobi, Kenya as Economic Counselor (2004-08); Shanghai, China (2000-2004); Taipei, Taiwan (1996-2000); Mbabane, Swaziland (1989-91); and Paris, France (1988-89).

Hoover is the winner of two global State Department awards: The Herbert Salzman Award for Excellence in International Economic Performance (2008), and the Director General's Award for Reporting (co-winner, 1998). He is the winner of several Superior Honor Awards and received a Presidential Rank Award in 2019. Prior to his Foreign Service career, Hoover worked as an investment banker in New York and Tokyo, and as an English teacher in Japan. He is a 1982 magna cum laude graduate of Princeton University and a native of Acton, Massachusetts. He is married to Kathyrine Sumi Lin Hoover, a former teacher. They are the proud parents of two adult sons.





*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

**John W. Yaeger, Ed.D.**  
***Captain, United States Navy (Retired)***  
***Vice President for Accreditation and Strategic Planning***



John W. Yaeger, E.D., was appointed National Defense University Vice President for Accreditation and Strategic Planning in September 2020. Prior to that he was Provost since October 2009. Dr. Yaeger is also a Commissioner on the Maryland Higher Education Commission. The Commission is an independent agency responsible for the planning, supervision and coordination of the state's post- secondary education system.

A 1974 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Dr. Yaeger serves today as Class President.

From June 1974 through June 1993 Dr. Yaeger had assignments with naval aviation squadrons and ships, serving as an instructor pilot in each operational assignment. Following command, he was assigned to the U.S. Naval Academy from July 1993 until July 1996 as the Commandant's Operations Officer. He instructed courses in leadership and character development.

In 1996, Captain Yaeger reported to National Defense University, and has been a student; Professor; Associate Dean of Faculty; Dean of Faculty; the Associate Provost for Planning and Assessment, Provost prior to his appointment as Vice President for Accreditation and Strategic Planning.

He earned a Master's Degree from the Naval Postgraduate School; a Master's of Science in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF), National Defense University; and the degree of Doctor of Education from The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.



# SENIOR LEADERSHIP

## NATIONAL DEFENSE

### UNIVERSITY

Washington, D.C.

*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

## Dr. Cynthia A. Watson

### *Interim Provost*



Dr. Cynthia A. Watson joined the Faculty of the National War College in August 1992, serving as Dean of Faculty & Academic Programs from March 2018 through July 2021 when she assumed the Interim Provost position. Dr. Watson taught all aspects of the curriculum and served in academic leadership roles across the College over her twenty-nine years there.

She served early in her career in positions in the legislative branch. Dr. Watson earned an MA from the London School of Economics, and a PhD from the University of Notre Dame. Her undergraduate *alma mater*, University of Missouri-Kansas City, honored her as Alumna of the Year in 2011.

Educated as an area studies scholar in Latin America and Asia, Dr. Watson also has functional expertise in strategic foundations, economic/political history and professional military education. Her passion is expanding understanding of our craft to a wider swath of fellow citizens.

The first edition (2002) of *U.S. National Security* received CHOICE's designation as a Book of the Year. Other publications include *Military Education*, *U.S. National Security* (2nd edition), and *Combatant Commands* among her ten books. Dr. Watson has served on the Governing Boards of several professional organizations and the Editorial Board of *Third World Quarterly*. Dr. Watson serves as a special advisor to the Society for International Business Fellows and remains a member of multiple professional societies. Dr. Watson is certified as a bilingual reader for the Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic.



*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

**Ms. Kathryn Kolbe**  
**Chief Operating Officer**



Ms. Kathryn Kolbe is the Chief Operating Officer of the National Defense University. She most recently served at the Headquarters, Department of Homeland Security, where she led the Congressionally mandated consolidation of 22 component agencies in the National Capital Region. She also served as the Executive Assistant Commissioner, Enterprise Services at Customs and Border Protection, providing full-spectrum mission support for 60,000 personnel, responsible for our nation's trade, travel and border security.

Ms. Kolbe is a retired Air Force Colonel and former installation commander at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, home to the Ogden Air Logistics Complex, two fighter wings and the Utah Test and Training Range. Throughout her Air Force career, she served as an engineer squadron commander in Germany, as a legislative fellow in the US Senate and completed two joint deployments to Iraq.

She is a graduate of the Eisenhower School, holds a master's degree from George Washington University and a bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from Lehigh University, where she earned her commission, as a distinguished graduate of the ROTC program.



# SENIOR LEADERSHIP NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY

Washington, D.C.

*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

## **Brigadier General Joy Curriera** *United States Army* **Commandant, Eisenhower School**



Brigadier General Joy L. Curriera became the Commandant of the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy on 25 June 2020. The Eisenhower School prepares selected military officers and civilians from around the world for strategic leadership and success in developing national security strategy and in evaluating, marshaling, and managing resources in the execution of that strategy. As the commandant, General Curriera is responsible for formulating academic policies, supervising curriculum planning, preparation and ensuring excellence in classroom teaching.

Prior to her assignment at the Eisenhower School, Brigadier General Curriera served as the Director of Operations for the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-9 (Installations), Headquarters Department of the Army, Pentagon. As the Director of Operations, Brigadier General Curriera was responsible for overseeing the development and coordination of program requirements, strategy, and policies pertaining to facilities standards, military construction, energy resilience,

real property asset management and BRAC properties that support Army objectives and improve the quality of life for Soldiers, Civilians, and Families.

Brigadier General Curriera graduated from the U.S. Military Academy and received her commission as a second lieutenant in the Army Signal Corps in 1990.

She served her lieutenant years in Germany, with the 1st Signal Battalion, 5th Signal Command; and then the 141st Signal Battalion, 1st Armored Division. Following the Signal Officer Advanced Course in 1995, she was assigned to the 501st Signal Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky, as the division's telecommunications officer and later as battalion S-1. She commanded the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 101st Personnel Services Battalion, (PSB); and while in command, she branch transferred to the Adjutant General's (AG) Corps.

While assigned next at Fort Polk, Louisiana, she served as executive officer for the 5th PSB, and then as the G1/AG Personnel Strength Management Chief for the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk. In May 2000, she transferred to the Pentagon where she served on the Department of Army Staff as the Operations/Information Management Officer for the General Officer Management Office. Following Command and General Staff College in 2003, she served as the Brigade S-1 for the 1st Signal Brigade, U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command, Yongsan, South Korea. She then returned to the National Capital Region, to serve as an AG Branch and Human Resource Management Functional Area Assignment Officer for the Army Human Resources Command (HRC), Alexandria, Virginia.

Brigadier General Curriera deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in May 2008 where she served as the CJ1 Personnel Strength Management Division chief for the Headquarters, Multi-National Corps – Iraq. Following this deployment, she

# SENIOR LEADERSHIP NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY

Washington, D.C.



*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

assumed command of the 46th Adjutant General (Reception) Battalion, 194th Armored Brigade, Fort Knox, Kentucky. After battalion command, she served at the Army Human Resources Command at Fort Knox, as the Integration Branch chief, Field Services Division, The Adjutant General (TAG) Directorate; and then as chief of the Army's Records Management Division within the TAG. Following graduation at the National War College in 2013, she commanded the U.S. Army Garrison at Camp Zama, Japan. Before assuming her duties with the G-9 (formerly titled Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management), Brigadier General Curriera served as chief of the Colonels Management Office, Senior Leader Development, Office of the Chief of Staff of the Army.

Brigadier General Curriera holds a Master of Science degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the National War College and a Master of Arts degree in Human Resources Management from Webster University.





# SENIOR LEADERSHIP

## NATIONAL DEFENSE

### UNIVERSITY

Washington, D.C.

*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

## **Brigadier General Jeffrey Hurlbert**

***United States Air Force***  
***Commandant, National War College***



Brigadier General Jeff Hurlbert is the 32nd Commandant of the National War College, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington D.C. As the commandant, Brig. Gen. Hurlbert leads the formulation of academic policies, supervision of curriculum planning and preparation, and ensuring excellence in classroom teaching.

Brig. Gen. Hurlbert is a 1991 graduate of the University of Notre Dame and was commissioned as a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps. The general earned a Master of Science in Business Organizational Management from the University of LaVerne, LaVerne, California; he was a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Special Investigations Academy and a distinguished graduate of Squadron Officer School; he holds a postgraduate certificate in strategic intelligence from National Intelligence University, Defense Intelligence Agency, Washington, D.C.; and he was awarded a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies (with distinction) from the U.S. Naval War College, Newport, R.I.

During his career, Brig. Gen. Hurlbert has served in a variety of counterintelligence, intelligence, security, and federal law enforcement positions supporting operations worldwide. The general has commanded at the Detachment, Squadron and Wing levels; has been assigned to both Headquarters Department of the Air Force and Geographic Combatant Command staffs; and served as Director of Security and Intelligence (J2), Military Office, The White House. Most recently, he was the Deputy Inspector General, Department of the Air Force, the Pentagon, Washington D.C.

Brig. Gen. Hurlbert's major awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, and Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters. He wears the U.S. Army Parachutist and Air Assault badges as well as the Presidential Service Badge.

# SENIOR LEADERSHIP NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY

Washington, D.C.



*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

## **Brigadier General Voris W. McBurnette** **United States Army Reserve** **Commandant, Joint Forces Staff College**



Brigadier General Voris W. McBurnette was born in Philadelphia, PA. He began his military career in 1988 as an enlisted Soldier in the U.S. Army Reserve as a communications systems installer/ operator (31K) and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant (Infantry) in 1991 from Saint Augustine' University.

Brigadier General McBurnette's key command and leadership assignments include: Brigade Commander of the U.S. Army Pacific - Support Unit, Director of the Center for Applied Strategic Learning, National Defense University, Fort McNair, DC; Deputy Executive Director, U.S. Army Center of Military History, Fort McNair, DC; Battalion Commander, 2nd BN, 0317th Regiment, 3/98th DIV, 108th TC, Lynchburg, VA; Executive Officer/Senior Advisor, West, OPM-FSE, Riyadh/Jeddah, KSA, Executive Officer/Deputy Director, TF Vanguard/Historian 108th TNG CMD, Charlotte, NC; Chief, Force Structure Division, 108th TNG CMD, Charlotte, NC; HSC Advisor/Asst. Ops Officer, MTT 0330, IAG, 4th BCT, 1st CAV, Iraq, Company

Commander, Delta Co. 1-323rd Regt. Durham, NC; and Mortar Platoon Leader and Infantry Platoon Leader, 1-315th IN BN(M) Philadelphia, PA.

BG McBurnette's military education includes resident Senior Service College and Intermediate Level Education (ILE). He holds several academic degrees to include a Bachelor of Arts in History from Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh, NC, a Master of Education in Educational Administration and a Master of Science in Adult and Continuing Education from Cheyney University of Pennsylvania (1994). He has also earned a Master of Arts in History (2001) and a Doctor of Education (2012), in Educational Administration and Supervision both from North Carolina State University. BG McBurnette is also a trained Professional Educator. He holds licenses as a Middle Grades Social Studies Educator, Principal (K-12), and a Superintendent of schools. He is also the Co-Author and Chief Editor of the command history, 108th Training Command: A History of Embracing Innovation and Shaping the Future from 1946-2010 (U.S. Government Printing Office, 2010).

His military awards and honors include:

The Order of Saint Maurice (Centurion), from the National Infantry Association, The Combat Order of the Spur 3rd Squadron / 4th Cavalry Fort Hood (service in Iraq), the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (with Silver Oak Leaf Cluster), National Defense Service Medal (with 1 Bronze Service Star), Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with Silver Hourglass and "M" Device), Army Service Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal (with 2 Bronze Service Stars), Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Ranger Tab and Parachutist Badge.

Brigadier General McBurnette is married to the former Ms. Nikki Rogers from Raleigh, NC and they have one child: Voris Jr.



# SENIOR LEADERSHIP

## NATIONAL DEFENSE

### UNIVERSITY

Washington, D.C.

*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

## **Dr. Cassandra C. Lewis**

### **Chancellor**

### **College of Information and Cyberspace**



Dr. Cassandra C. Lewis is the Chancellor, and former Dean of Faculty and Academic Programs, at the National Defense University (NDU) College of Information and Cyberspace (CIC). She serves as the principal advisor to the National Defense University President and Provost on curriculum and academic programs related to cyberspace and Information.

As a member of NDU's senior leadership executive council, Dr. Lewis is instrumental in strategic planning and coordination of University initiatives. Dr. Lewis is the chief administrator of CIC's academic programs, with responsibility for financial, facilities, and personnel management. She maintains relationships with partner NDU components, U.S. government agencies, the private sector, international allies and Department of Defense and civilian educational institutions and universities.

Under her leadership CIC's academic programs and curricula continue to be rigorous, relevant, and of high quality, to effectively fulfill the mission of the College to educate joint warfighters and national security leaders to lead, advise and advance global security within the cyberspace domain, through the use of the information instrument of national power.

Dr. Lewis is a community-minded educator with a demonstrated commitment to mentoring women and K-16 students both locally and abroad. She has a particular passion for fostering transformational leadership and advancing careers in STEM.

Dr. Lewis holds a Bachelor's degree in the Interdisciplinary Social Sciences/International Studies from the State University of New York at Buffalo; Master's degree in Higher Education from Boston College; a Ph.D. in Education Policy from the University of Maryland, College Park; and a Certificate in Executive Leadership Coaching from Georgetown University.



*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

## **Ambassador Greta Holtz**

***Retired***

***Chancellor, College of International Security Affairs***



Ambassador Greta C. Holtz enjoyed 35 years as a career diplomat with extensive experience in the Middle East region. She retired in April 2021 with the personal rank of Minister Counsellor. Ambassador Holtz served as Senior United States Coordinator for Operation Allies Refuge in Qatar from August - October 2021 and as Chargé d'affaires in Qatar from June 2020 until April 2021. She was Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the State Department's Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, and she was the Senior Foreign Policy Advisor (POLAD) to the Commanding General of U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) from 2017- 2019. She served as the United States Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman from 2012 to 2015 and was the Vice-Chancellor at National Defense University's College of International Security Affairs from 2016 to 2017. Ambassador Holtz was Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Strategic Communication in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, and she ran the United States Provincial Reconstruction teams in Iraq from 2009-2010.

Additional overseas assignments include Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Tunisia, Syria, and Turkey, and her domestic assignments include serving as the director of the Middle East Partnership Initiative, the United States Coordinator for the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe, and a Senior Watch Officer in the Operations Center.

Holtz has a B.S. in political science from Vanderbilt University, an M.A. in International Relations from the University of Kentucky's Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce, and an M.A. in National Security Strategy from the National War College. She speaks French, Arabic, and Turkish.

Ambassador Holtz is the recipient of numerous State Department Superior Honor Awards, two Presidential Rank nominations, Vanderbilt University's Phi Alpha Theta Distinguished Alumnus Award, the Christopher Medallion, (CIA); Joint Meritorious Civilian Service Award from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Joint Civilian Service Commendation Award from the President of National Defense University; Joint Civilian Service Achievement Award from the Chancellor of NDU's College of International Security Affairs.



# SENIOR LEADERSHIP

## NATIONAL DEFENSE

### UNIVERSITY

Washington, D.C.

*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

## **Dr. Laura Junor Pulzone**

***Director***  
***Research and Strategic Support***



Dr. Laura Junor Pulzone is currently serving as the Director of Research and Strategic Support. She had previously served as the Director for the Center for Strategic Research (CSR) and holds the academic rank of University Professor at NDU. As Director of INSS, she oversees three research centers and a publishing unit that provide direct analytic support to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Office of the Secretary of Defense. The research centers provide regional expertise in areas such as Russia, Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East, North Africa, and NATO, along with functional expertise in fields such as national security policy, military strategy, defense reform, future warfare, military readiness, and international political economy. These researchers maintain leading-edge expertise in their fields. Much of their work is posted at [ndupress.ndu.edu](http://ndupress.ndu.edu).

Prior to her arrival at NDU, Dr. Junor Pulzone was confirmed as the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. As the Principal Deputy, Dr. Junor Pulzone co-lead the Department's efforts to modernize the military retirement system and transformed readiness management in the Department. Her additional responsibilities included all military and civilian personnel policies, the military healthcare system including TRICARE, family support services, the Defense Commissary Agency, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and department policy relating to suicide prevention and sexual assault. Dr. Junor Pulzone previously served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness, the Chief of Staff for Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, and as a deputy team leader for readiness at the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA).

Dr. Junor Pulzone was recently invited by President Biden to serve as a Member of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Air Force Academy. A native of the D.C. metropolitan area, Dr. Junor Pulzone graduated from Goucher College in Towson, Maryland with honors in economics. She received her Ph.D. in economics from George Mason University.

Her areas of expertise are Defense Economics and Defense Health Policy.





*The premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship*

**Rear Admiral Gerard M. Mauer, Jr.**  
**United States Navy (Retired)**  
**Director, CAPSTONE/KEYSTONE/PINNACLE**



Rear Admiral Mauer is a Philadelphia native and was commissioned via the Villanova University NROTC program. He retired from the Navy in March 2008 after over 31 years of service, which included extensive experience in fleet operations, resource management, technical innovation, Joint Professional Military Education (JPME), inter-agency coordination, and leading organizational change in NATO and joint commands.

From 2008 to 2011, RADM Mauer was a Group Vice President for Sabre Systems Inc. He was responsible for developing then implementing the corporate strategic plan and managing the Southeast Region's profit and loss operations, its contracts, corporate business development, human resources programs, and Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) level III attainment. After leaving Sabre Systems, RADM Mauer had positions as an Associate with Burdeshaw Associates, as a Senior Analyst for Wikistrat, as a Board member and Board Treasurer for the Navy Safe Harbor Foundation, and as a representative and the national Co-Chair for the US Global Leadership Coalition's

Veterans for Smart Power.

Admiral Mauer's last position in the Navy was from 2006 to 2008, when he served as the Commandant, Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF). He was responsible for executing the congressionally mandated and accredited master's degree senior Professional Military Education curriculum. As a university leader, he directly supported the direction of the National Defense University and was a key member in the development of the University's strategic plan.

From 2003 to 2006, he served as the NATO Allied Command Transformation's Director, Joint Experimentation, Exercises, and Assessment, where he developed and implemented NATO's largest Concept Development and Experimentation program. The scope included creating NATO's transformation strategic vision and aligning the vision with its concepts and requirements. As a result of his initiatives, NATO rapidly implemented new processes, policies, and systems in support of its forces in Afghanistan and Iraq as well as new capabilities to support its political and military infrastructure in NATO headquarters.

From 2001 to 2003, he was the Deputy, Directorate for Information Operations (J39/DDIO), Joint Staff Director of Operations (J-3) where he was responsible for direct coordination with the Office of the Secretary of Defense staff, Combatant Commands, and inter-agency organizations in their global information operations. In this capacity, his responsibilities also included supervision and operational coordination of the Joint Staff's Special Technical Operations information system and its programs.

Admiral Mauer was a Naval Aviator who commanded Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadrons SEVEN (HS-7) and TEN (HS-10) in addition to assignment as the Commanding Officer of USS NASSAU (LHA 4). He has vast experience at sea with deployments to the Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, and Arabian Gulf. Ashore assignments included: Naval Postgraduate School student, Assistant Program Manager for the Naval Air Systems Command SH-60F/H helicopter program (PMA 266), and Training Officer and Instructor Pilot in Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron ONE (HS-1). He started with CAPSTONE/KEYSTONE/PINNACLE in August of 2016.



# NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY

300 5<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, S.W.  
FORT McNAIR  
WASHINGTON, D.C.