



## BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH P. EKMAN

Maj. Gen. Kenneth P. Ekman is the Director, Strategy, Engagement, and Programs, U.S. Africa Command, Stuttgart Möhringen, Germany. In this capacity, he contributes to U.S. policy and strategy, develops theater campaign, operational and force posture plans, integrates international and African partner military efforts, and conducts U.S. inter-agency and international engagements consistent with U.S. Africa Command priorities.

Maj. Gen. Ekman received his commission in 1991 after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He has primarily flown sailplanes, the F-16 Fighting Falcon and the F-22 Raptor, and has commanded at the squadron, wing, and Air Expeditionary Task Force levels. His staff assignments include service at U.S. Air Forces Central Command, Office of the Secretary of Defense, North American Aerospace Defense and U.S. Northern Commands, and Office of the Defense Representative Pakistan. Prior to his current position, Maj. Gen. Ekman served as Deputy Commander for Operations, Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve, and Commander, 9th Air Expeditionary Task Force-Levant.

Maj. Gen. Ekman is a command pilot with more than 3,100 flying hours, including 605 combat hours in operations Southern Watch, Northern Watch, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

#### EDUCATION

1991 Distinguished Graduate, Bachelor of Science, Aeronautical Engineering, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.

1994 Master of Science with Distinction, Mechanical Engineering, California State University, Fresno

1998 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

2004 Distinguished Graduate, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2005 School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2007 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence

2012 Joint and Combined Warfighting School, Norfolk, Va.

2012 Center for Creative Leadership, Goldsboro, N.C.

2013 Federal Executive Fellowship, Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.

2020 Combined Forces Air Component Commander's Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2020 Combined/Joint Forces Special Operations Component Commander's Course, MacDill AFB, Fla.

#### ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 1991–September 1992, Student, Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas

2. October 1992–December 1994, Curriculum Engineer and Sailplane Instructor, U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School, Edwards AFB, Calif.

3. January 1995–February 1996, Student, F-16 Fighting Falcon Replacement Training Unit, Luke AFB, Ariz.

4. March 1996–June 1998, Electronic Combat Pilot, Chief of Scheduling and Instructor Pilot, 522nd Fighter Squadron, Cannon AFB, N.M.

5. July 1998–June 2000, Chief of Scheduling, Flight Commander, Assistant Operations Officer, 36th Fighter Squadron, Osan Air Base, South Korea

6. July 2000–December, Student, F-16 Weapons Instructor Course, U.S. Air Force Weapons School, Nellis AFB, Nev.

7. January 2001–June 2003, Chief, 14th Fighter Squadron and 35th Operations Support Squadron Weapons and Tactics, Misawa AB, Japan

8. July 2003–June 2004, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

9. July 2004–June 2005, Student, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

10. July 2005–July 2006, Chief of Campaign Strategy, 609th Combat Plans Squadron, Ninth Air Force/U.S. Central Air Forces, Shaw AFB, S.C.

11. August 2006–August 2007, Director of Operations, F-16 Instructor Pilot, 55th Fighter Squadron, Shaw AFB, S.C.

12. September 2007–May 2008, Chief of Safety, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Balad AB, Iraq



### EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant  
May 29, 1991



First Lieutenant  
May 29, 1993



Captain  
May 29, 1995



Major  
February 01, 2002



Lieutenant Colonel  
March 01, 2006



Colonel  
August 01, 2011



Brigadier General  
August 22, 2016



Major General  
May 22, 2020



13. July 2008–October 2009, Commander, 79th Fighter Squadron, Shaw AFB, S.C.
14. October 2009–February 2010, Commander, 79th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, Bagram AB, Afghanistan
15. February 2010–June 2010, Deputy Commander, 20th Mission Support Group, Shaw AFB, S.C.
16. July 2010–May 2012, Tactical Air Analyst, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.
17. June 2012–July 2013, Vice Commander, 49th Wing, Holloman AFB, N.M.
18. July 2013–April 2014, Federal Executive Fellow, Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.
19. May 2014–May 2015, Commander, 8th Fighter Wing, Kunsan AB, South Korea
20. May 2015–July 2016, Vice Director of Operations; Deputy Chief of Staff, North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command, Peterson AFB, Colo.
21. August 2016–December 2017, Vice Chief then Chief, Office of the Defense Representative-Pakistan, U.S. Embassy, Islamabad, Pakistan
22. January 2018–April 2020, Vice Commander, First Air Force and Air Forces Northern Command, Tyndall AFB, Fla.
23. April 2020–April 2021, Deputy Commander for Operations, Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve; Commander, 9th Air Expeditionary Task Force-Levant, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait
24. July 2021–present, Director, Strategy, Engagement, and Programs, U.S. Africa Command, Stuttgart-Möhringen, Germany

#### **SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS**

1. July 2010–May 2012, Tactical Air Analyst, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va., as a colonel
2. May 2015–July 2016, Vice Director of Operations; Deputy Chief of Staff, North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., as a colonel
3. August 2016–December 2017, Chief, Office of the Defense Representative-Pakistan, U.S. Embassy, Islamabad, Pakistan, as a brigadier general
4. April 2020–April 2021, Deputy Commander for Operations, Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, as a major general
5. July 2021–present, Director, Strategy, Engagement, and Programs, U.S. Africa Command, Stuttgart-Möhringen, Germany, as a major general

#### **FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Rating: command pilot

Flight hours: more than 3,100, including 605 combat hours

Primary aircraft flown: F-16, F-22, CAP C-182/C-206, T-38, T-37, sailplanes

#### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Defense Superior Service Medal

Legion of Merit

Distinguished Flying Cross

Bronze Star Medal

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal

Air Medal

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Combat Action Medal

Afghanistan Campaign Medal

Iraq Campaign Medal

Samil Medal (Republic of Korea)

#### **OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS**

1991 Outstanding Cadet in Soaring, U.S. Air Force Academy

1992 Air Training Command Commander's Trophy, Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training

1995 Distinguished Graduate, Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals

1996 Top Graduate, F-16 FTU Class 95-HBLG, Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

2000 Distinguished Graduate and Flying Award, F-16 Weapons Instructor Course 00B, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

#### **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant May 29, 1991

First Lieutenant May 29, 1993

Captain May 29, 1995

Major Feb. 1, 2002

Lieutenant Colonel March 1, 2006

Colonel Aug. 1, 2011

Brigadier General Aug. 22, 2016

Major General May 22, 2020

(Current as of August 2021)

# BG Jon Solem



BG Jon Solem was commissioned as an Armor officer in May 1990 from the United States Military Academy, at West Point. He was a tank platoon leader, mortar platoon leader, Kuwaiti Liaison Officer, and Tank Company executive officer while serving in Germany and Kuwait with 3-77 Armor in the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division. At the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division he was a troop commander and assistant operations officer for 3/17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. Next he was a BDE operations officer for 1<sup>st</sup> BDE ROTC at Fort Dix, NJ, followed by assignment as an Assistant Professor of Military Science at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA, from 1998-2000.

BG Solem left active duty in 2000, completed his law degree, moved to Seattle, and practiced law. Following 9/11, he joined the Army Reserve and resumed military service. He was assigned to the 104<sup>th</sup> Division as the 8<sup>th</sup> BDE S-3, and served as an Assistant Professor of Military Science at the University of Washington. He mobilized with the 104<sup>th</sup> Division as the Convoy Company Commander (Rough Riders) for MNSTC-I, 2007-2008. When he returned he had various assignments in the 4-414<sup>th</sup> Bn culminating as 4-414<sup>th</sup> Bn CDR. After his change of command, he was mobilized for two years as the 104<sup>th</sup> DIV G-3 and mobilization officer. He took command of 3-414<sup>th</sup> in 2012, and then accepted Command of the Forward Support Element, LDAC in April 2013. Upon completion of that command, he was selected to interim command the 654<sup>th</sup> RSG in Tacoma WA. 654<sup>th</sup> RSG had its own ocean going vessels in a subordinate battalion, so effectively he had his own Navy. Following command of the 654<sup>th</sup> RSG, he was selected to command the 652<sup>nd</sup> RSG in Helena, MT. This command included units in Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, and Montana. It was the number one brigade out of 13 in the 79<sup>th</sup> TSC. From there, BG Solem was selected as the CoS of the 364<sup>th</sup> ESC in Marysville, WA for 2 years. Next he was Deputy CDR of the 91<sup>st</sup> Training Division at Fort Hunter Liggett, CA, the premier Army Reserve Training Facility. He was the Chief of Staff of the 84<sup>th</sup> Training Command at Fort Knox KY from 2019-2021, and is now the Deputy J5 for AFRICOM.

BG Solem's education includes a Bachelor of Science degree in National Security and Public Affairs from the United States Military Academy, Juris Doctor from Rutgers University Law School, a Master's degree in Strategic Studies from the US Army War College, and a certificate as an Emergency Medical Technician from the Elizabethtown Community and Technical College.

His military education includes Ranger School, Airborne School, Air Assault School, as well as the full range of professional military education. His decorations include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal.

He is currently on military leave from his civilian job as the Command Executive Officer for the 79<sup>th</sup> Theater Sustainment Command. He is mobilized as the Deputy Director for Plans and Strategic Integration at U.S. Africa Command.

He is married to his wife Kim, with five kids, Rebecca, Rachel, Colin, Lauren, and Jacqueline. They call Whitefish, Montana, home.



# BIOGRAPHY



## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### BRIGADIER GENERAL SHAWN E. HOLTZ

Brig Gen Holtz is the Deputy Director, Strategy, Engagement, and Programs, U.S. Africa Command, Stuttgart Mörhingen, Germany. In this capacity, he contributes to U.S. policy and strategy, develops theater campaign, operational and force posture plans, integrates international and African partner military efforts, and conducts U.S. inter-agency and international engagements consistent with U.S. Africa Command priorities.

General Holtz graduated with honors from Western Michigan University in 1991 and later received his commission in 1995 from the Academy of Military Science, McGhee Tyson ANG Base, Knoxville, Tenn. He has commanded a fighter squadron, expeditionary fighter squadron, operations group, mission support group, and a wing. Additionally, he served as Dual Status Commander for the state of Michigan and Joint Task Force Civil Support, USNORTHCOM, in response to the novel coronavirus.

Prior to his selection as Deputy Director, USAFRICOM, General Holtz was the Deputy Commander, Michigan Air National Guard as well as the Joint Chief of Staff, Michigan National Guard Headquarters, MI. As a command pilot, he has logged more than 4,200 flying hours including more than 900 combat flying hours flying missions in operations Deliberate Guard, Allied Force, Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and Inherent Resolve.



### EDUCATION

1991 Bachelor of Science, Aviation Science and Technology, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Mich.  
1995 Academy of Military Science, McGhee Tyson AFB, Knoxville, Tenn.  
2002 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence  
2007 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence  
2016 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence  
2016 Senior Leader Mission Group Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.  
2017 Air National Guard Commanders Development Course, Joint Base Andrews, Md.  
2017 Safety and Accident Investigation Board President Course, Joint Base Andrews, Md.  
2017 Defense Support of Civil Authorities Board President Course (on-line)  
2018 Emergency Operation Center Directors Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.  
2018 Contemporary Base Issues Course, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich.  
2019 AFFOR Senior Staff Course, Hurlburt Field, Fla.  
2020 Senior Officer Legal Orientation Course, Joint Base Andrews, Md.  
2021 Joint Task Force Commanders Course, Colorado Springs, Colo.  
2021 Dual Status Commanders Course, Colorado Springs, Colo.



**ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. May 1995–May 1996, Undergraduate Pilot Training, 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin AFB, Texas.
2. May 1996–June 1996, Fighter Lead-In, 14th Flying Training Wing, T-38, Columbus AFB, Miss.
3. June 1996–December 1996, Operational Training Course, A-10A, 355th Fighter Wing, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
4. December 1996–Jul 1998, Pilot, A-10A, 172nd Fighter Squadron, Battle Creek ANG Base, Mich.
5. Jul 1998–Jan 2002, Squadron Safety Officer, 172nd Fighter Squadron, Battle Creek ANG Base, Mich.
6. Jan 2002–August 2002, Life Support Officer, 172nd Fighter Squadron, Battle Creek ANG Base, Mich.
7. August 2002–September 2003, Assistant Flight Commander, 172nd Fighter Squadron, Battle Creek ANG Base, Mich.
8. September 2003–September 2005, Flight Commander, 172nd Fighter Squadron, Battle Creek ANG Base, Mich.
9. September 2005–May 2008, Chief of Scheduling, 172nd Fighter Squadron, Battle Creek ANG Base, Mich.
10. May 2008–Nov 2008, Chief of Standards and Evaluations, 110th Operations Group, Battle Creek ANG Base, Mich.
11. November 2008–April 2009, Assistant Director of Operations, 172nd Fighter Squadron, Battle Creek ANG Base, Mich.
12. April 2009–August 2013, Chief of Standards and Evaluations, 127th Operations Group, Selfridge ANG Base, Mich.
13. August 2013–October 2013, Chief Weapons and Tactics, 127th Operations Support Squadron, Selfridge ANG Base, Mich.
14. October 2013–December 2015, Commander, 107th Fighter Squadron, Selfridge ANG Base, Mich.
15. December 2015–May 2018, Commander, 127th Operations Group Commander, Selfridge ANG Base, Mich.
16. May 2018–May 2019, Commander, 127th Mission support Group, Selfridge ANG Base, Mich.
17. May 2019–June 2022, Commander, 110<sup>th</sup> Wing, Battle Creek ANG Base, Mich.
18. June 2022–January 2023, Deputy Commander, Michigan Air National Guard, Lansing JFHQ, Mich.
19. January 2023–July 2023, Joint Chief of Staff, Michigan National Guard, Lansing JFHQ, Mich.
20. July 2023–Present, Dep Director, Strategy, Engagement, and Programs, U.S. Africa Command, Stuttgart, Germany

**FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Rating: Command pilot

Flight hours: More than 4,200 including more than 900 combat hours

Aircraft flown: T-37, T-38, A-10A, A-10C; MQ-9

**MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Legion of Merit

Distinguished Flying Cross

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with nine oak leaf clusters

Air and Space Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster

Air and Space Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster

Combat Action Medal

Meritorious Unit Award with five oak leaf clusters

Air and Space Outstanding Unit Award with Valor and four oak leaf clusters

**OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS**

1995 Distinguished Graduate, Academy of Military Science, TN

1996 Top Flyer, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Laughlin AFB, TX

**EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant April 20, 1995

First Lieutenant April 20, 1997

Captain May 2, 1999

Major May 2, 2003

Lieutenant Colonel December 6, 2008

Colonel January 13, 2017

Brigadier General June 15, 2023

(Current as of July 2023)



# RONALD W. MEYERS

## *Biography*



### **HQ U.S. AFRICA COMMAND**

Ron Meyers is the Director of Staff for USAFRICOM J5, where he is responsible for the day-to-day management of the organization. He joined the J5 in October 2021 from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (OSD Policy), where he served as the Principal Director for African Affairs since 2018. In this capacity, he led the development of U.S. defense policy and strategy to Africa, and represented the Department on policy matters affecting to the continent.

While in OSD Policy (from 2010), Mr. Meyers served in various other capacities, including Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (A/DASD) for African Affairs, A/DASD Security Cooperation, and the Sr. Afghanistan Country Director in DASD Afghanistan, Pakistan & Central Asia. He is best known in OSD Policy for standing-up the DASD Security Cooperation office in 2014 and setting the course of reforms contained in the 2016 NDAA, as well as driving a changed approach to Afghanistan that culminated in a 2017 Presidential proclamation.

Prior to joining OSD Policy, Mr. Meyers was the Chief, Plans & Resources in the Armaments Cooperation Division of the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force (International Affairs). He oversaw the development of policy, negotiation of international agreements, and management of programs in the acquisition field – skills cultivated earlier at the Executive Office of the President, U.S. Department of State, and World Bank. In these positions, he also played critical roles in the U.S. response to the 1998 Asian Financial Crisis and 2008 Global Financial Crisis. Mr. Meyers entered public service in 2004.

While in the private sector, Mr. Meyers pursued government contracting opportunities. He was an analyst for TECHPLAN Corporation advising clients on foreign acquisition and aerospace engagement issues, and a Consultant at the World Bank working social development issues, among other areas of interest.

Noteworthy, Mr. Meyers is the recipient of the Department's Distinguished Civilian Service Award, among others, and holds an MBA from Georgetown University, Master of Arts in Political Science (Northeastern University), and Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (University of California, Santa Barbara).

### **CAREER CHRONOLOGY**

- 10/10 – 10/21 DoD – Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy)
  - *Principal Director for African Affairs*, DASD African Affairs
  - *Sr. Afghanistan Country Director*, DASD Afghanistan, Pakistan & Central Asia
  - *Director for Partnership Policy & Strategy*, DASD Security Cooperation
  - *Strategist*, DASD Partnership Strategy & Stability Operations
- 05/09 - 10/10 DoD – Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force (International Affairs)
  - *Chief Plans & Resources*, International Armaments Cooperation Division
- 01/05 - 05/09 Executive Office of the President (Office of the U.S. Trade Representative)
  - *Director for APEC Affairs*, Office of Japan, Korea, and APEC
  - *Director for Japan*, Office of Japan, Korea, and APEC
  - *Director for Intellectual Property*, Office of Intellectual Property, Investment & Services
- 04/04 - 01/05 U.S. Department of State (Bureau of Resource Management)
- 04/01 - 04/04 TECHPLAN Corporation, International Programs Office
- 01/96 - 04/01 The World Bank, East Asia & Pacific Region





**REESE W. TEAKELL**  
Command Sergeant Major  
Southern European Task Force-Africa  
Vicenza, IT

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Command Sergeant Major Reese W. Teakell joined the U.S. Army from his hometown of Cheyenne, WY in July 1992. After completion of One Station Unit Training, the Basic Airborne Course and the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program at Fort Benning, GA, CSM Teakell was assigned to Company B, 3d Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, GA, where he served as assistant machine gunner and machine gun team leader, team leader, squad leader, air operations non-commissioned officer and Platoon Sergeant.

Following his time as a platoon sergeant, CSM Teakell was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment, as the RS8 Target and Engagement Requirements NCO and later as the RS8 Non-commissioned officer in charge. In May 2007, CSM Teakell was selected to serve as the 1SG for Company D, 2d Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment.

After completion of the Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas, CSM Teakell was assigned as the Battalion Operations Sergeant Major for 2d Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment in June 2011. In January 2014 through February 2018, he served as the Battalion Command Sergeant Major for 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 325<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry Regiment at Fort Bragg, NC and then as the Command Sergeant Major for the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regimental Special Troops Battalion.

In March 2018, CSM Teakell was selected to serve as the 3<sup>d</sup> BCT, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Command Sergeant Major, where he trained and deployed his brigade to Afghanistan in support of Operation Resolute Support. After redeploying, CSM Teakell was selected to serve in his current assignment as the Command Sergeant Major for the Security Force Assistance Command. CSM Teakell currently serves as the Southern European Task Force- Africa CSM since September of 2022.

CSM Teakell has deployed 16 times in support of combat operations. Once in support of Operation Restore Hope, Mogadishu, Somalia, 15 in support of War on Terrorism with four tours to Iraq and 11 tours to Afghanistan.

His military education includes the Basic Airborne Course, Military Freefall Course, U.S. Army Ranger Course, Emergency Medical Technician Basic Course, Jungle Warfare School, Pathfinder Course, Special Operations Training Course, Warrior Leaders Course, Advanced Leaders Course, the Senior Leaders Course, and the Sergeants Major Academy.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal (5 OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (6 OLC), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (5 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (3 OLC), Joint Meritorious Unit Achievement Medal, Valorous Unit Award (1 OLC), the Ranger Tab, The Combat Infantryman Badge (2<sup>nd</sup> Award), the Expert Infantryman Badge, The Pathfinder Badge, The Master parachutist Badge with Bronze Star, and the Basic Military Freefall Badge.

CSM Teakell and his wife, Heather have been married for 20 years.

## Rachel Featherstone

*Team Leader, Security Assistance for Africa and the Western Hemisphere, Office of Security Assistance, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.*

**CURRENT ASSIGNMENT:** Ms. Featherstone is currently serving as the Team Leader for the Security Assistance Team for Africa and the Western Hemisphere in the Office of Security Assistance, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM), U.S. Department of State. The Security Assistance Team is responsible for managing more than \$6 billion a year in military assistance including the Foreign Military Financing (FMF), International Military Education and Training (IMET) and the Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) account. Ms. Featherstone is directly responsible for all FMF, IMET and PKO to Africa and the Western Hemisphere and the overall PKO and IMET accounts. Her team is also responsible for coordinating the Department's position on concurring on Department of Defense authorities such as section 333 Train and Equip for Africa and the Western Hemisphere.

**PAST EXPERIENCE:** Ms. Featherstone began her federal service career at the State Department in June 2002. She has worked in PM her entire career at State and has held her current position since August 2018. Prior to this current assignment, she was the Security Assistance Team Leader for Africa and the Near East for three and a half years. Prior to that assignment, she directly managed FMF, IMET, and PKO to Africa for seven and a half years. Prior to that assignment, she managed the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) program for three and a half years.

**EDUCATION:** She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Virginia in 2002 and a Master of Arts in Security Studies from Georgetown University in 2007. She was a U.S. Department of State Powell Fellow from 2007-2008 and graduated from the Department of Defense Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP), Class of 2013.

**Awards:** She has received twelve Superior Honor Awards, four Meritorious Honor Awards, two Quality Step Increases, two Cash Awards, and three Extra Mile Awards.



**Dr. Leigh E. Nolan**  
**Principal Director**  
**Global Partnerships**  
**Office of the Secretary of Defense**

Dr. Leigh E. Nolan is Principal Director for Global Partnerships, Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), Policy.



Prior to this position, Dr. Nolan served as Director for Analysis in the Strategy and Force Development Office in OSD Policy and held a position on the leadership team for both the 2022 and 2018 National Defense Strategy. She has also served as the Director for Syria in OSD Policy, Director for Strategic Planning on the National Security Council Staff, and as a member of the Secretary of State's Policy Planning Staff. She has taught at Georgetown University and Tufts University, where she managed diplomatic training programs throughout the Gulf. Dr. Nolan was a Boren Graduate Fellow in Yemen, a Fulbright-Hayes lecturer in Iraqi Kurdistan, and a Fulbright Teaching Fellow in South Korea.

Dr. Nolan earned a Bachelor's Degree from Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA, a Master's and Ph.D in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy at Tufts University, Medford, MA. Dr. Nolan has studied Korean, Arabic and French.



# BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Scott C. Buchanan

Director, Security Cooperation



**CURRENT ASSIGNMENT:** Dr. Buchanan serves as the Director for Security Cooperation Policy in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

**PAST EXPERIENCE:** Dr. Buchanan is a career policy professional in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. He has served in numerous leadership positions, including: Director for Iraq and Syria Policy; Chief of Staff, SO/LIC; Senior Advisor for the Defeat ISIS Task Force; Director for Domestic Counterterrorism & Global Antiterrorism; Director of Force Transformation Resources and Plans; Deputy Director for Counterterrorism Operations; Deputy Director for Special Operations & Irregular Warfare; and Team Chief and Senior Advisor for NATO Operations.

Dr. Buchanan has served multiple tours in Afghanistan, most recently as the Senior Advisor to the Afghan National Security Advisor in the Resolute Support Mission's Executive Advisory Group in 2018-2019. He served as the Senior NATO Special Operations Component Command Advisor to Afghanistan's Minister of Defense and the General Staff in 2013-2014, and as the Senior Advisor to the NATO Senior Civilian Representative in Afghanistan in 2014-2015. Dr. Buchanan supported special operations oversight and election security and peace planning, negotiated and concluded the NATO status of forces agreement with Afghanistan, and served as the in-country executive secretary for the NATO Trust Fund. In 2014, the Commander, International Security Assistance Force by-name requested Dr. Buchanan to serve as the senior advisor to the Afghan National Security Council on the National Security Policy and the National Security Strategy.

**EDUCATION:** Dr. Buchanan received his PhD in Public Policy from George Mason University, graduate degrees from the Naval War College and the University of Denver, and undergraduate degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He was a 2012 World Politics and Statecraft Fellow (Smith Richardson Foundation) and adjunct with the National Defense University while completing dissertation research. Dr. Buchanan teaches graduate courses on defense policy at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Studies and was a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Dr. Buchanan entered government service in August 2001 as a Presidential Management Intern.

**AUTHORITY:** 10 U.S.C. 131

**PRINCIPAL PURPOSE:** To provide the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense, The Executive Secretariat and the Principal Staff Assistants (PSAs) with immediate access to biographical information on OSD Staff personnel for purposes of facilitating assigned responsibilities and duties. The PSAs will only have access to those biographies for personnel who are employed, assigned, detailed or contracted to their respective offices. Biographies may be passed outside OSD for the purpose of facilitating official business and visits with the express permission of the subject of the biography.

## **Michael George**

Michael George is a Deputy Assistant Director for Regional Planning and Program Design at the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA). Prior to joining DSCA, he served as Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of European and Eurasian Country Affairs.

He served for nine years at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM), most recently as Deputy Director for the Office of Security Assistance. In that role, he provided policy oversight for nearly \$6.5 billion in State Department security assistance for the East Asia/Pacific, South and Central Asia, Europe, and Western Hemisphere regions. In 2016, he served as a foreign policy and national security advisor to Senator Brian Schatz of Hawaii through the Brookings Institution LEGIS fellowship program, handling security issues in Asia and the Senator's participation in Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee hearings.

Before joining PM, he served at the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC). While at NCTC, he twice received the Director's Award for Excellence, the highest recognition within the Center.

During prior service at the State Department, he helped stand up the Office of the Director of Foreign Assistance. In that role, he supported the U.S. response to the 2008 earthquake in Sichuan Province, People's Republic of China. He also managed several State Department appropriations, including the Economic Support Fund and Assistance to Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia funding.

He holds a Master of Arts degree in International Relations and International Finance from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, DC, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations from Pomona College in California.