



***FOUNDATIONS OF  
MILITARY THEORY:  
THE EVOLUTION OF WAR AND  
MILITARY THOUGHT***

**MT 5520 SYLLABUS  
AY 25**

**JOINT PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION PHASE I INTERMEDIATE LEVEL  
COURSE**

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
AIR COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Leaders for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges**

**AIR COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE  
MAXWELL AFB, AL**

**FOREWORD**

This syllabus for the *Foundations of Military Theory* course for the Air Command and Staff College, Academic Year 2025 (August-September 2024), provides both an overview of the course narrative, objectives, and questions, as well as a detailed description of each lesson to assist students in their reading and preparation for lecture and seminar. Included herein is information about course methods of evaluation, schedule, and the fulfillment of joint professional military education core goals.

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## FOUNDATIONS OF MILITARY THEORY COURSE OVERVIEW

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Having spent the last twenty years fighting asymmetric wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, we now face an uncertain future. As the U.S. military shifts its focus to strategic competition and peer competitors, new technologies threaten to upend warfare. While twenty years of combat experience will no doubt help the U.S. adapt to any challenges the future may bring, President Dwight D. Eisenhower cautioned, “every war is going to astonish you in the way it occurred, and in the way it is carried out.”<sup>1</sup> If experience alone is not enough to guide us, where can we turn? Generations of military leaders have answered that question with the study of military theory and military history.

Waiting until a future war to consult military theory or historical case studies is too late. French General Ferdinand Foch observed that “no study is possible on the battlefield, one does simply what one can in order to apply what one knows.”<sup>2</sup> Foundations of Military Theory provides an opportunity to study the canonical works of military theory, examine key concepts in their historical contexts, and test them against your own experiences.

The course provides a space for you to step away from your tactical expertise and explore the nature and character of war at the operational and strategic levels. Is there an enduring nature of war? What drives the character of war to change? The theories we examine in this course explore these questions, as well as how human nature, ethics, policy, strategy, operational art, and disruptive technologies shape the purpose and conduct of wars from the ancient world to the present. Further, the course explores how the unique characteristics of the warfighting domains of maritime, land, air, space, and cyber influence warfare and military theory. While some concepts are domain-specific, others such as the indirect approach or irregular warfare, transcend the domains.

Joint Doctrine identifies the study of military theory, philosophy, and military history as a key responsibility for leaders of the profession of arms. Yet, Foundations of Military Theory will provide no concrete answers on how to prepare for or think about future wars. Instead, as Carl von Clausewitz argues, the course and the military theories within it are “meant to educate the mind of the future commander, or, more accurately, to guide him in his self-education, not to accompany him to the battlefield.”<sup>3</sup> We urge you to approach the theories introduced in the course through a lens of critical analysis and to use the theories to reflect on the organization and employment of joint forces in support of national strategic objectives. We hope these ideas will serve you across the curriculum, especially as you move into courses that increasingly emphasize the application of military force to achieve political objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> The President's News Conference of 3/23/55, *Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum & Boyhood Home*, <https://www.eisenhowerlibrary.gov/eisenhowers/quotes#War>.

<sup>2</sup> John E. Jessup, Jr. and Robert W. Coakley, *A Guide to the Study and Use of Military History* (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, 1988), xi.

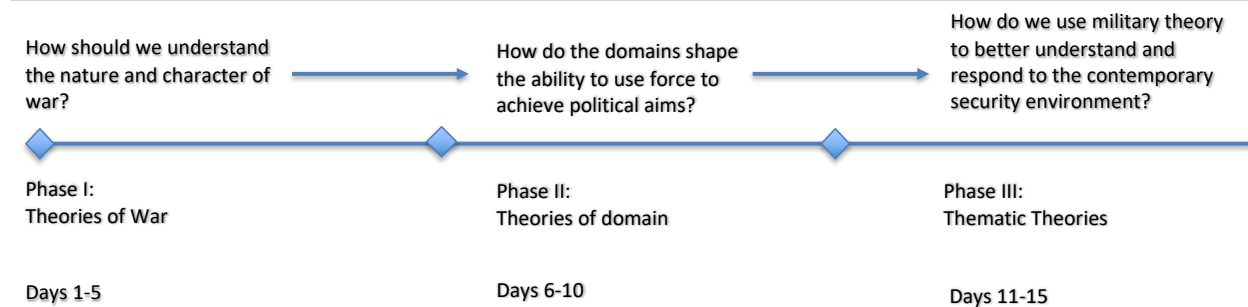
<sup>3</sup> Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, ed. and trans. Michael Howard and Peter Paret (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984), 141.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

Foundations of Military Theory aims to cultivate habits of mind and patterns of inquiry to prepare officers to confront the uncertainties of the future. It invites students to grapple with contending ideas, question their own assumptions about war and the profession of arms, and appreciate the relevance of classical military theory amid current and evolving national security challenges. Our course objectives are:

1. Understand military theory and its relationship to concepts of human nature, military science, operational art, strategy, and policy.
2. Analyze the nature and character of war, as well as continuity and change in warfare across the competition continuum.
3. Apply foundational military theories to contemporary and emerging warfare.

## COURSE MAP



## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### 1. MT-600(E): MIDTERM ESSAY

Write a 3-page (double-spaced) argumentative essay on how the foundational military theories covered in Phase I of the course have influenced your understanding of how military force can be used to achieve political aims. This assignment is worth 25 percent of the final MT 5510 grade. The essay is due at 1700 on 20 August 2024, which is Day 6 of the course.

### 2. MT-601(E): FINAL ESSAY

Write a 6-page (double-spaced) research essay that applies the theorist(s) and idea(s) from the course to analyze the case study on the ongoing Russian War in Ukraine. *Hint: We strongly encourage you to start reading 10 pages a day early in the course and we have built in several days of light reading to provide time to read the case study.* This assignment is worth 40 percent of the final MT 5510 grade. The essay is due at 1700 on 30 September 2024, which is the Monday after the course ends.

### 3. MT-602(C): CLASS EXERCISES, PREPARATION, AND CONTRIBUTION

Each student is expected to attend lectures and seminars, read the assigned texts, participate in class exercises, and contribute to seminar discussions. Contribution is worth 25 percent of the final MT 5510 grade.

### 4. MT-603(X): CAPSTONE WARGAME EXERCISE

Each student will participate in the capstone wargame exercise on Day 15 of the course. Students are expected to have read all material and familiarized themselves with *NextWar Poland* game

mechanics. During the exercise, students have three objectives: First, students will analyze scenario gameplay through the lens of the military theories covered in the course; Second, students will apply wargaming theory and mechanics to the scenario; Third, students will demonstrate their ability to contribute to team decision-making. This is a pass/fail graded assignment worth 10 percent of the final MT 5510 grade. The exercise grade is not based on the outcome of the gameplay.

## REQUIRED BOOKS

The course includes readings from books issued by ACSC and readings from electronic files posted on Canvas and Teams (indicated as “[EL]”). Students can access the syllabus, lecture videos, electronic readings, and other supplemental materials online through Canvas and Teams.

ACSC provides students with copies of the following course books, which must be returned at the conclusion of the course:

- Clausewitz, Carl von. *On War*. Edited and translated by Michael Howard and Peter Paret. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1976.
- Corbett, Julian S. *Some Principles of Maritime Strategy*. 1911. Reprint, Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 2004.
- Douhet, Giulio. *The Command of the Air*. Maxwell Air Force Base: Air University Press, 2019.
- Echevarria, II, Antulio J. *Military Strategy: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.
- Fridman, Ofer. *Strategiya: The Foundations of the Russian Art of Strategy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021.
- Kane, Thomas M. and Noah E. Falkovich, *Chinese Grand Strategy in the 21st Century: According to Plan?* New York: Routledge, 2024.
- Kilcullen, David. *The Dragons and the Snakes: How the Rest Learned to Fight the West*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2020.
- Klein, John J. *Understanding Space Strategy: The Art of War in Space*. New York: Routledge, 2019.
- Liddell Hart, B.H. *Strategy*. 2nd rev. ed. New York: Meridian, 1991.
- Monaghan, Andrew, ed. *Russian Grand Strategy in the era of global power competition*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2022.
- Payne, Kenneth. *I, Warbot: The Dawn of Artificially Intelligent Conflict*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021.
- Paret, Peter, ed. *Makers of Modern Strategy: From Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*. Princeton: Princeton University, 1986.
- Ramani, Samuel L. *Putin's War on Ukraine: Russia's Campaign for Global Counter-Revolution*. London: Hurst & Company, London, 2023.
- Sawyer, Ralph D, trans. *The Seven Military Classics of Ancient China*. New York: Basic Books, 2007.
- Schelling, Thomas C. *Arms and Influence*. With a new Preface. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008.
- Sherman, William C. *Air Warfare*. 1926. Reprint, Maxwell Air Force Base: Air University Press, 2002.

- Strassler, Robert, ed. *The Landmark Thucydides: A Comprehensive Guide to the Peloponnesian War*. Translated by Richard Crawley. New York, NY: The Free Press, 1996.
- Walzer, Michael. *Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument with Historical Illustrations*, 4th ed. New York: Basic Books, 1977.

**FOUNDATIONS OF MILITARY THEORY  
SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

*Phase I: Theories of War*

**DAY 1 – STRATEGY AND MILITARY THEORY**

**DATE: August 1/2, 2024**

**LESSON OBJECTIVES**

1. Review the course objectives, syllabus, methods of evaluation, and expectations for seminar.
2. Understand the purpose and application of military theory.
3. Introduce the foundational elements of strategy, operations, and tactics.

**MT-501 (S): Strategy and the Utility of Military Theory**

*CONTACT HOURS: 2-hour seminar*

**MT-502 (L): Thucydides and the Peloponnesian War.** Dr. Paul Johnston.

*CONTACT HOURS: 1-hour lecture*

**REQUIRED READINGS (72)**

1. Antulio J. Echevarria, *Military Strategy: A Very Short Introduction* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017), 1-12, 109-115.
2. Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, ed. and trans. by Michael Howard and Peter Paret (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984), 127-150.
3. Everett Carl Dolman, *Pure Strategy: Power and Principle in the Space and Information Age* (New York: Routledge, 2019 [2005]), 1-30. [EL]



## DAY 2 – WAR: FEAR, HONOR, INTEREST

DATE: August 5/6, 2024

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehend the perspective of Thucydides on the relationship between human nature, government, and war.
2. Examine the arguments of Thucydides as related to humans' historical propensity for conflict.
3. Discuss historical trends related to war, the reasons humans fight, and the importance of human nature for understanding the contemporary security environment.

### MT-503 (S): The Nature of War

CONTACT HOURS: 2-hour seminar

### MT-504 (L): Understanding Sun Tzu. John Sullivan, guest lecture.

CONTACT HOURS: 1-hour lecture

### REQUIRED READINGS (90)

1. Robert B. Strassler, ed., *The Landmark Thucydides: A Comprehensive Guide to the Peloponnesian War* (New York: Free Press, 1996), 3-16, 38-49, 80-85, 93-99, 111-118, 123-128, 171-183, 199-201, 350-357, 366-375, 404-410, 455-478.

### RECOMMENDED READINGS (OPTIONAL)

1. J. E. Lendon, *Soldiers and Ghosts: A History of Battle in Classical Antiquity* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005), 58-114. [EL] [note – the entire book is available via the AU Library]

## DAY 3 – THE TAO OF WAR

DATE: August 8/9, 2024

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the historical and cultural context of *The Seven Military Classics of Ancient China*.
2. Examine how the Chinese military classics approach strategy, the use of military force, the purpose of war, and the relationship between the military and society.
3. Apply the classical Chinese approach to warfare to the contemporary security environment and debate the similarities and differences between the Chinese military classics and the contemporary Chinese approach to conflict.

### MT-505 (S): The Tao of War

CONTACT HOURS: 3-hour seminar with application and brief comparing the Seven Military Classics

### REQUIRED READINGS (88-100)

1. Thomas M. Kane and Noah E. Falkovich, *Chinese Grand Strategy in the 21st Century: According to Plan?* (New York: Routledge, 2024), 14-24, 31-38.
2. Ralph D. Sawyer, trans., *The Seven Military Classics of Ancient China* (New York: Basic Books, 2007).

The instructor will assign groups of 3-4 students to read the seven classics.

- Group 1: “T’ai Kung’s Six Secret Teachings,” 23-105.
- Group 2: “The Methods of the Ssu-ma,” 111-143; “Sun-tzu’s Art of War,” 149-186.
- Group 3: “Wu-tzu,” 191-224; “Wei Liao-tzu,” 229-276.
- Group 4: “Three Strategies of Huang Shih-kung,” 281-306; “Questions and Replies Between T’ang T’ai-tsung and Li Wei-kung,” 311-360.

### RECOMMENDED READINGS (OPTIONAL)

1. Edward O’Dowd and Arthur Waldron, “Sun Tzu for Strategists,” *Comparative Strategy* 10 (1991), 25-36. [EL]
2. Peter Lorge, *Sun Tzu in the West* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022), 177-196. [EL] [note – the entire book is available via the AU Library]

## DAY 4 – WARS JUST AND UNJUST

DATE: August 12/13, 2024

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehend the perspective of Walzer on the relationship between human nature, government, and what makes war just or unjust.
2. Understand the Confucian approach to Just War and how it differs from the Western approach.
3. Discuss historical trends related to ideas of ethical behavior and war for insights into the contemporary security environment.
4. Debate the justness of Russia's war in Ukraine.

**MT-506 (L): Ethics and the Profession of Arms.** Lt Col Joseph Chapa, USAF, PhD. (Shared with LP)

CONTACT HOURS: 1-hour lecture

**MT-507 (S): Wars Just and Unjust**

CONTACT HOURS: 2-hour seminar with application. IOs will give a 5-7 min brief on how their country understands the concept of Just War

### REQUIRED READINGS (45)

1. Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument with Historical Illustrations*, 4th ed., (New York: Basic Books, 2006), 21-47.
2. Tongdong Bai, *Against Political Equality: The Confucian Case* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2019), 226-239. [EL]
3. Chia-Yu Liang, "Chinese Just War Theories? Three Examples and their Implications," *British Journal of Chinese Studies* 13, no. 1 (January 2023): 105-108. [EL]

### RECOMMENDED READINGS (OPTIONAL)

1. Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument with Historical Illustrations*, 4th ed., (New York: Basic Books, 2006), 74-124.
2. Tongdong Bai, *Against Political Equality: The Confucian Case* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2019), 214-226. [EL]

## DAY 5 – WAR AS POLICY

DATE: August 15/16, 2024

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Examine Clausewitz's views on the trinity and its implications for the relationship between policy and war.
2. Comprehend Clausewitz's concepts of absolute vs real war, friction, strategy, moral factors, economy of force, the culminating point of the attack and victory, and the relationship between the offense and defense.

### MT-508 (S): War as Art and Complexity

CONTACT HOURS: 3-hour seminar

### REQUIRED READINGS (104)

1. Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, ed. and trans. by Michael Howard and Peter Paret (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984), 75-99, 113-116, 119-121, 177-189, 204-209, 213, 220, 357-366, 524-525, 527-528, 566-573, 582-602, 605-616.

### RECOMMENDED READINGS (OPTIONAL)

1. Peter Paret, "Clausewitz," in *Makers of Modern Strategy from Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*, ed. Peter Paret, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986), 186-216.
2. Hajo Holborn, "The Prusso-German School: Moltke and the Rise of the General Staff," in *Makers of Modern Strategy from Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*, ed. Peter Paret, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986), 281-295.

## *Phase II: Theories of Domain*

### **DAY 6 – WAR IN THE MARITIME DOMAIN**

**DATE: August 19/20, 2024**

#### **LESSON OBJECTIVES**

1. Understand the Maritime as a warfighting domain.
2. Comprehend the naval theories of Mahan and Corbett, and compare their views on naval strategy, command of the sea, and sea denial.
3. Comprehend the importance of sea power and the maritime domain for both historical and contemporary security environments.

#### **MT-509 (S): Naval Theorists**

*CONTACT HOURS: 2-hour seminar with application comparing Mahan and Corbett*

#### **MT-510 (L): Military Innovation and the First World War.** Dr. Sebastian Lukasik

*CONTACT HOURS: 1-hour lecture*

#### **REQUIRED READINGS (96/97)**

1. Everett Carl Dolman, *Pure Strategy: Power and Principle in the Space and Information Age* (New York: Routledge, 2019 [2005], 30-40. [EL]
2. John Gooch, “Maritime Command: Mahan and Corbett,” in *Seapower and Strategy*, ed. Colin S. Gray and Boger W. Barnett (Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1989), 27-45. [EL]
3. Group 1: Alfred Thayer Mahan, *Retrospect and Prospect: Studies in International Relations, Naval and Political* (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1902), 139-205. [EL]
4. Group 2: Julian S. Corbett, *Principles of Maritime Strategy* (1911; repr., Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 2004), 13-16, 49-56, 87-104, 128-135, 157-173, 211-215, 235-245.

#### **RECOMMENDED READINGS (OPTIONAL)**

1. Michael B. Petersen, “Russia’s global maritime strategy,” in *Russian Grand Strategy in era of global power competition*, ed. Andrew Monaghan (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2022), 49-70.
2. Philip A. Crowl, “Alfred Thayer Mahan: The Naval Historian,” in *Makers of Modern Strategy from Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*, ed. Peter Paret, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986), 444-480.

## DAY 7 – WAR IN THE LAND DOMAIN

DATE: August 22/23, 2024

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the Land as a warfighting domain.
2. Comprehend Jomini's fundamental principles of warfare, including offensive, objective, strategy, lines of operation, mass, maneuver, decisive points, and strategic combinations.
3. Discuss Jomini's scientific approach to war and its deep and abiding influence on Western militaries, especially in the United States.
4. Comprehend the technological and doctrinal developments that emerged prior to the First World War, their contribution to static warfare, and efforts to innovate and adapt to overcome deadlock.
5. Discuss the relative contributions of the tank and modern system tactics to the return of mobility on the Western Front in 1918, as well as to the dominance of maneuver warfare during the Second World War.

### MT-511 (S): Maneuver Warfare

CONTACT HOURS: 2-hour seminar and 1-hour map practicum on the war in Ukraine

### REQUIRED READINGS (98)

1. Antoine Henri de Jomini, *The Art of War*, trans. G.H. Mendell and W.P. Craighill, restored ed. (1862; repr., Ontario: Legacy Books Press, 2008), 1, 44-75, 83-100, 133-135. [EL]
2. Stephen Biddle, *Military Power: Explaining Victory and Defeat in Modern Battle* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University, 2004), 28-51. [EL]
3. Heinz Guderian, *Panzer Leader*, trans. Constantine Fitzgibbon (1952; repr., Cambridge, MA: Da Capo Press, 2002), 39-46. [EL]
4. B. H. Liddell Hart, *Strategy*, 2nd rev. ed. (New York: Meridan, 1991), 326-333.
5. Joint Publication 3-0, "Appendix A: Principles of Joint Operations," in *Joint Campaigns and Operations*, 18 June 2022, A-1-A-5. [EL]

### RECOMMENDED READINGS (OPTIONAL)

1. Gunther E. Rothenberg, "Moltke, Schlieffen, and the Doctrine of Strategic Envelopment," in *Makers of Modern Strategy from Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*, ed. Peter Paret, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986), 296-325.
2. Michael Howard, "Men against Fire: The Doctrine of the Offensive in 1914," in *Makers of Modern Strategy from Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*, ed. Peter Paret, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986), 510-526.
3. Michael Geyer, "German Strategy in the Age of Machine Warfare, 1914-1945," in *Makers of Modern Strategy from Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*, ed. Peter Paret, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986), 527-597.

## DAY 8 – WAR IN THE AIR DOMAIN

DATE: August 27/29, 2024

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the Air as a warfighting domain.
2. Understand the development of the air arm during the First World War, which underpinned the emerging theories governing the uses of airpower during the interwar period.
3. Comprehend emerging concepts of air superiority, strategic bombing, interdiction, and close air support in the writings of Sherman.
4. Examine similarities and differences in the theories of Gray and Sherman regarding the employment of airpower in the contemporary security environment.

### MT-512 (S): The Foundations of Airpower Theory

CONTACT HOURS: 2-hour seminar

### MT-513 (L): Space as a Warfighting Domain, Dr. Everett Dolman, Air War College

CONTACT HOURS: 1-hour lecture

### REQUIRED READINGS (113)

1. William C. Sherman, *Air Warfare* (1926; repr., Maxwell Air Force Base: Air University Press, 2002), 3-33, 117-121, 148-163, 190-208.
2. Giulio Douhet, *The Command of the Air* (Maxwell Air Force Base: Air University Press, 2019), 14-30.
3. Colin S. Gray, *Airpower for Strategic Effect* (Maxwell Air Force Base: Air University Press, 2012), 274-305. [EL]

### RECOMMENDED READINGS (OPTIONAL)

1. David MacIsaac, “Voices from the Central Blue: The Air Power Theorists,” in *Makers of Modern Strategy from Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*, ed. Peter Paret, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986), 624-647.

## Day 9 – WAR IN THE SPACE DOMAIN

DATE: September 3/5, 2024

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Understand Space as a warfighting domain.
2. Comprehend how terrestrial military theory applies to war in space.
3. Understand how a state's power influences their space strategy.

### MT-514 (S): War in the Space Domain

CONTACT HOURS: 2-hour seminar

### MT-515 (L): Cyber as a Warfighting Domain, Dr. Joshua Sipper

CONTACT HOURS: 1-hour lecture

### REQUIRED READINGS (82/84)

1. John J. Klein, *Understanding Space Strategy: The Art of War in Space* (New York: Routledge, 2019), 1-64.
  - a. In addition, based on which chapter best fits their country, students will read either Chapter 5: Space strategy for great powers (96-115), Chapter 6: Space strategy for medium powers (124-142), or Chapter 7: Space strategy for emerging powers (150-170).

### RECOMMENDED READINGS (OPTIONAL)

1. Dean Cheng, "Space 201: Thinking About the Space Domain," *The Heritage Foundation* (October 4, 2017), <https://www.heritage.org/military-strength-topical-essays/2018-essays/space-201-thinking-about-the-space-domain> .



## Day 10 – WAR IN THE CYBER DOMAIN

DATE: September 9/10, 2024

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Understand Cyber as a warfighting domain.
2. Comprehend the variation and complexity of the Cyber domain.
3. Explore whether the introduction of AI into warfare changes the nature and character of war.

### MT-516 (S): AI and the Nature and Character of War

CONTACT HOURS: 2-hour seminar

### MT-517 (L): Advanced Deterrence Concepts, Dr. Mel Deaile

CONTACT HOURS: 1-hour lecture

### REQUIRED READINGS (109)

1. Kenneth Payne, *I, Warbot: The Dawn of Artificially Intelligent Conflict* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 1-9, 17-20, 60-136.
2. Michael P. Fischerkeller, Emily O. Goldman, and Richard J. Harknett, *Cyber Persistence Theory: Redefining National Security in Cyberspace* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022), 23-36, 119-126. [EL]

### RECOMMENDED READINGS (OPTIONAL)

1. Kenneth Payne, *I, Warbot: The Dawn of Artificially Intelligent Conflict* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 21-56, 137-180.
2. Committee on Developing a Cybersecurity Primer, *At the Nexus of Cybersecurity and Public Policy: Some Basic Concepts and Issues*, ed. David Clark, Thomas Berson, and Herbert S. Lin (Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press, 2014), 29-52. [EL]
3. JP 3-12 *Joint Cyberspace Operations* (December 19, 2022), I-1-II-16. [EL]

*Phase III: Thematic Theories*

**Day 11 – NUCLEAR WARFARE AND DETERRENCE**

**DATE: September 12/13, 2024**

**LESSON OBJECTIVES**

1. Understand the three classical approaches to nuclear deterrence.
2. Comprehend how Douhet's theory that war could be rapidly won by punishing civilian population centers through aerial bombardment inspired later nuclear theorists.
3. Examine Schelling's arguments about the manipulation of risk.

**MT-518 (S): Nuclear Deterrence and Coercion**

*CONTACT HOURS: 2-hour seminar*

**MT-519 (L): Afghanistan Retrospective**, Dr. Michal S. Bell (COL, USA Ret.), Executive Director of the Institute for the Study of War and Democracy at The National WWII Museum

*CONTACT HOURS: 1-hour lecture*

**REQUIRED READINGS (63)**

1. Antulio J. Echevarria, *Military Strategy: A Very Short Introduction* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017), 47-63.
2. Giulio Douhet, *The Command of the Air* (Maxwell Air Force Base: Air University Press, 2019), 159-169, 175-177.
3. Thomas C. Schelling, *Arms and Influence*, with a new Preface (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008), 92-125.

**RECOMMENDED READINGS (OPTIONAL)**

1. Scott D. Sagan, "Why Do States Build Nuclear Weapons? Three Models in Search of a Bomb," *International Security* 21, no.3 (Winter 1996/97), 54-86. [EL]
2. Caitlin Talmadge, "Multipolar Deterrence in the Emerging Nuclear Era," in *The Fragile Balance of Terror: Deterrence in the New Nuclear Age*, ed. Vipin Narang and Scott D. Sagan (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2022), 13-38. [EL]
3. Richard Wolfson and Ferenc Dalnoki-Veress, *Nuclear Choices for the Twenty-First Century: A Citizen's Guide* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2021), 339-362. [EL]

## DAY 12 – IRREGULAR WARFARE AND THE INDIRECT APPROACH

DATE: September 16/17, 2024

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehend the range of military operations covered by the term “irregular warfare,” including insurgency, civil war, and terrorism, and the similarities and differences between these conflicts and a more traditional understanding of conventional war.
2. Understand the basic tenets of guerrilla warfare, the indirect approach, and conceptual envelopment.
3. Understand how these concepts apply to the contemporary security environment.

### MT-520 (S): Irregular Warfare and the Indirect Approach

CONTACT HOURS: 3-hour seminar with application on urban warfare and IW

### REQUIRED READINGS (96)

1. Joint Publication 1, Volume 1, *Joint Warfighting*, August 27, 2023, II-6-II-8. [EL]
2. Mao Tse-tung, *Mao Tse-tung on Guerilla Warfare*, trans. Samuel B. Griffith (1961; repr., U.S. Marine Corps, FMFRP 12-18, 1989), 41-50, 88-114. [EL]
3. André Beaufre, *An Introduction to Strategy: With Particular Reference to Problems of Defense, Politics, Economics, and Diplomacy in the Nuclear Age* (New York: Praeger, 1965), 107-138. [EL]
4. David Kilcullen, *The Dragons and the Snakes: How the Rest Learned to Fight the West* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2020), 167-176, 200-214.

### RECOMMENDED READINGS (OPTIONAL)

1. Vo Nguyen Giap, *The Military Art of People’s War: Selected Writings of General Vo Nguyen Giap*, ed. Russel Stetler (New York: Monthly Review Press, 1970), 79-116, 163-184. [EL]

## DAY 13 – MODERN RUSSIAN STRATEGY

DATE: September 19/20, 2024

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the foundations of modern Russian military theory in the writings of Genrikh Antonovich Leer and Evgeny Ivanovich Martynov.
2. Examine contemporary Russian grand strategy and the Russian security perspective.
3. Apply Russian military theory to contemporary Russian military operations.

### MT-521 (S): Modern Russian Strategy

CONTACT HOURS: 2-hour seminar

**MT-522 (L): Position: Chinese Strategy in Theory and Current Practice.** Dr. Peter Lorge, Vanderbilt University.

CONTACT HOURS: 1-hour lecture

### REQUIRED READINGS (91)

1. Andrew Monaghan, “Introduction: Russian Grand Strategy and global power competition,” in *Russian Grand Strategy in era of global power competition*, ed. Andrew Monaghan (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2022), 1-17.
2. Charles Bartles, “Sixth-generation war and Russia’s global theatres of military activity,” in *Russian Grand Strategy in era of global power competition*, ed. Andrew Monaghan (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2022), 71-91.
3. Genrikh Antonovich Leer, “The Experience of Historical-Critical Research into the Laws of Military Art (Positive Strategy),” in *Strategiya: The Foundations of the Russian Art of Strategy*, ed. and trans. Ofer Fridman (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 23-39, 69-73.
4. Evgeny Ivanovich Martynov, “The Responsibilities of Politics in Its Relations with Strategy,” in *Strategiya: The Foundations of the Russian Art of Strategy*, ed. and trans. Ofer Fridman (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 75-106.

### RECOMMENDED READINGS (OPTIONAL)

1. TBD based on current events.

## DAY 14 – MODERN CHINESE STRATEGY

DATE: September 23/24, 2024

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the foundations of modern Chinese military theory.
2. Examine China's shift in military strategy from blunting American power to building its own power.
3. Discuss how China's intellectual foundations and security perspective influence its approach to cyber strategy.

### MT-523 (S): Modern Chinese Strategy

CONTACT HOURS: 3-hour seminar

### REQUIRED READINGS (85)

1. Rush Doshi, *The Long Game: China's Grand Strategy to Displace American Order* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 68-101, 183-207. [EL]
2. Thomas M. Kane and Noah E. Falkovich, *Chinese Grand Strategy in the 21st Century: According to Plan?* (New York: Routledge, 2024), 101-126.

### RECOMMENDED READINGS (OPTIONAL)

1. TBD based on current events.

## DAY 15 – WARGAMING AND MILITARY THEORY

DATE: September 26/27, 2024

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Understand wargaming and how it aids strategy and operational planning.
2. Introduce *Next War* game mechanics.
3. Analyze scenario gameplay through the lens of the military theories covered in the course.
4. Apply wargaming theory and mechanics to the scenario.
5. Demonstrate ability to contribute to team decision-making.

### MT-524 (S): The Theory of Wargaming

CONTACT HOURS: 1-hour seminar

### MT-603 (X): 2027 – Poland’s Fall

CONTACT HOURS: 3-hour exercise

### REQUIRED READINGS (27)

1. Kjetil Enstad, “Professional Knowledge through Wargames and Exercises,” *Scandinavian Journal of Military Studies* 5, no.1 (2022): 233-242.
2. John Curry, “Professional Wargaming: A Flawed but Useful Tool,” *Simulation & Gaming* 51, no.5 (2020): 612-628.

## APPENDIX: COURSE FACULTY

### *MT Course Director*

**Dr. Mary Elizabeth “STAG” Walters** is an Assistant Professor of Military and Security Studies in the Department of International Security and a trustee for the Society for Military History. Walters received her PhD in military history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She teaches Military Theory, International Security, Airpower Strategy and Operations, and electives on War and Genocide in the Balkans and Combat Motivation. She is working on an oral history project exploring Operation Allies Welcome, the U.S. military support for the evacuation and resettlement of Afghans spanning 2021-2022. Her second book project, *Hospitality is the Law of the Mountains: The 1999 Kosovo War*, argues that Albanians – motivated by the Albanian concept of hospitality – took strangers into their homes and communities and changed the course of the refugee crisis. Before joining ACSC, Walters was an assistant professor in the History Department at Kansas State University.

### *MT Deputy Course Director*

**Dr. Steph Hinnershitz** specializes in civil-military relations in the United States during WWII and has published books and articles on this subject as well as immigration history. She received her PhD from the University of Maryland, and before joining the Department of International Studies in 2023, she was Senior Historian at the Institute for the Study of War and Democracy at the National WWII Museum. In addition to the Military Theory and National Security courses, she also teaches the PAS elective course.

### *Faculty*

**Lt Col Gary Adams** serves in the Department of International Security at Air Command and Staff College (ACSC). He holds a Bachelor’s in Mathematics from the Citadel. Moreover, he earned his MA in International Relations from The University of Oklahoma and a Master of Military Operational Art and Science degree from ACSC. Lt Col Adams received his commission through AFROTC at The Citadel in 2007. He is a career combat search and rescue (CSAR) helicopter pilot with 1,250 hours in the T-6A, UH-1, TH-1, and HH-60G. He has several deployments to Afghanistan in support of OEF and OFS and a deployment in support of the 2011 NATO mission in Libya as part of Operations Odyssey Dawn and Unified Protector. Lt Col Adams is returning from his AFIT PhD program at the University of Central Florida. He teaches Military Theory and National Security.

**LtCol Joe Baldwin** is an instructor in the Department of Airpower at ACSC where he teaches Military Theory and is the deputy course director for Airpower Strategy and Operations. Prior to this assignment, he served on the commander’s action group at Third Air Force, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Maj Baldwin is a senior pilot, previously qualified in the M-28 Skytruck, Pilatus PC-12, T-6A Texan II, and most recently the C-130J Super Hercules. Maj Baldwin holds a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Engineering from the United States Air Force Academy, Master of Science in Aeronautical Science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, and a Master of Military Operational Art and Science degree from ACSC.

**Lt Col Katie Baldwin** is an instructor of Military and Security Studies in the Department of International Security. Lt Col Baldwin received her commission from the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in 2009, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Political Science with minors in Spanish and Philosophy. She received a Master's in National Security from American Military University in 2013 and graduated Air Command and Staff College with a Master's in Military Operational Arts and Sciences in 2023. Lt Col Baldwin is a C-130J instructor pilot with over 2,000 hours flying the C-130J, T-1, C-130H, T-44, and T-6.

**Dr. Amber B. Batura** is an Assistant Professor of Military and Security Studies. She served as the Deputy Course Director of the Leadership and Profession of Arms Course and teaches courses in National Security, Airpower, Leadership, Military Theory, and electives including War and Gender. Dr. Batura received her Ph.D. in military and gender history from Texas Tech University in 2018. Her research focuses on the intersectionality of war, gender, culture, community, and identity. She has published in *Air and Space Operations Review*, the *Journal of American-East Asian Relations*, the *New York Times*, and contributed to volumes on the Vietnam War. She is currently working on her manuscript entitled *Playboy's Vietnam* and a project on women pilots' experiences of flight and trauma.

**Dr. Terry Beckenbaugh** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Air Power at Air University's Air Command and Staff College (ACSC) at Maxwell Air Force Base. He came to ACSC from the US Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he taught for nine years in the Department of Military History. Dr. Beckenbaugh received his PhD in 19<sup>th</sup> Century US History from the University of Arkansas, and his Masters and Bachelors in US History and History, respectively, from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania. Beckenbaugh has taught at a variety of undergraduate and graduate civilian institutions. He is currently working on a book on the White River Campaign in Arkansas in the spring-summer of 1862, and has numerous publications and conference presentations.

**Lt Col Brandon Buelow, PhD**, is an Assistant Professor of Military and Security Studies in the Department of International Security. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering from Arizona State University, Master of Military Operational Art and Science from Air University, a Master of Science in Emergency Management from Columbia Southern University, and a PhD in Public Administration and Public Policy from Auburn University. Lt Col Buelow received his commission through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) at Arizona State University and was selected to attend Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training. Lt Col Buelow is a senior pilot with more than 2,900 hours in the T-6 Texan II, T-1A Jayhawk, and KC-10A Extender and has flown combat and combat support missions in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, UNIFIED PROTECTOR, INHERENT RESOLVE, and FREEDOM'S SENTINEL. Lt Col Buelow's research interests are sub-conventional warfare and deterrence. More specifically, his research is focused on sub-conventional warfare and the effects that it has on the likelihood of conventional war.

**Lt Col John "Garick" Chamberlin, PhD**, is an Assistant Professor of Military and Security Studies in the Department of Airpower at the United States Air Force's Air Command and Staff College (ACSC). He holds a PhD in History from Purdue University, an MA in National



Security Affairs from Naval Postgraduate School, and a BS in Middle East Studies from Excelsior College (USNY). Garick has split his Air Force career roughly equally between intelligence and education assignments, having taught at the Defense Language Institute and the US Air Force Academy, and commanded a Student Squadron at Squadron Officers School prior to his assignment to ACSC. In the Intelligence field, he was attached to the RC-135 both as an enlisted aviator and as an intelligence officer, and also served on the 3rd Air Force and US Air Forces in Europe staffs and as the Chief of Wing Intelligence for the 22 ARW at McConnell AFB. Garick has over a dozen deployments to the Middle East, as well as one to Kosovo. His research focuses on the diplomatic and military history of the Early American Republic, primarily related to North African affairs, and on American Airpower history.

**Dr. Shawn Cochran** joined the ACSC faculty in 2024 from the RAND corporation, where he conducted research in the areas of nuclear deterrence, joint warfighting concepts, Indo-Pacific strategy, and emerging technology. He holds a Master of Public Policy degree in International Security and Political Economy from Harvard University and a Doctor of Political Science degree in Political Science from the University of Chicago. Prior to his tenure at RAND, Dr. Cochran served as professor and then as Commandant and Dean at the US Air Force School of Advanced Air and Space Studies. A career Air Force officer and command pilot, Dr. Cochran flew the HH-60G for Combat Rescue, commanded combat flying units at squadron and group levels, and served as instructor at the US Air Force Weapons School. He has published in *Security Studies*, *Armed Forces & Society*, *Strategic Studies Quarterly*, and *War on the Rocks*, and is the author of the book *War Termination as a Civil-Military Bargain*. In addition to teaching at ACSC, Dr. Cochran continues to work as Senior Political Scientist for RAND in adjunct status and as Professor of Policy Analysis at the Pardee RAND Graduate School.

**Dr. Ron Dains** is an Associate Professor of Military and Security Studies at the Air Command and Staff College. He has served as ACSC Dean of Education Support, Chair of the Department of International Security, and National Security Studies Course Director. He earned his Ph.D. and M.A. in Political Science from the University of Alabama and holds an M.S. and B.S. in Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Ron is a retired USAF Aircraft and Munitions Maintenance Officer who also served as a USAF enlisted Aircraft Electro-Environmental Technician and a US Navy Aviation Electrician's Mate and Helicopter Rescue Crewman/Swimmer. His teaching experiences include the Airman Leadership School; NCO Leadership School and NCO Academy; Military Strategic Studies and PME at the US Air Force Academy; and, Joint Air Operations Planning, Regional and Cultural Studies, National Security Studies, National Security Decision Making, Warfare Studies, Military Theory, US Civil-Military Relations, and The History of Logistics at ACSC. His aircraft maintenance experience includes the UH-1F and N; SH, CH, and HH-3; HH-60; MH-53; C-130; and the B-1B. His munitions maintenance and operational support experience includes the CALCM and conventional munitions supporting B-1B; B-52; B-2, F-15, and F-18 operations. Following retirement from active duty, he served as a Defense Analyst for the Government Accountability Office then returned to ACSC as a civilian professor.

**Dr. Melvin G. Deaile** is the Director of the School of Advanced Nuclear and Deterrence Studies (SANDS) and an Associate Professor in the Department of International Studies at Air University's Air Command and Staff College. Dr Deaile hails from Fresno, CA native, and is a

retired Air Force Colonel, where he served two tours in the B-52 Stratofortress and a tour in the B-2 Spirit. He has flown combat operations as part of Operations DESERT STORM and OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, including a record setting 44.3 hour combat mission, and deployed in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. He is the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross and a distinguished graduate of the USAF Weapon School. He holds a PhD from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Masters degrees from Louisiana Tech, CGSC, SAASS, and the University of Alabama. Dr Deaile published his first book, *Always at War*, which chronicles the development of SAC's organizational culture under Gen Curtis LeMay and is the author of the forthcoming book *Cold War Alabama*. He has written numerous articles, editorials, and book reviews on nuclear weapons and their role in national security.

**Dr. Rob DiPrizio** serves in the Department of International Security. He earned his doctorate in International Relations from the University of Delaware in 2000 and joined ACSC in 2001. He is the author of *Armed Humanitarians: US Interventions from Northern Iraq to Kosovo* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002) and editor of *Conflict in the Holy Land: From Ancient Times to the Arab-Israeli Conflicts* (ABC-CLIO, 2020). He teaches courses in national and international security, military strategy, and Arab-Israeli Conflicts. He currently serves as Director of the National Security Studies course.

**Dr. Jordan R. Hayworth** is the Associate Dean for Policy and Strategy at the Air Command and Staff College. He previously served as an Associate Professor of Military and Security Studies in the Department of Leader and Research Development, where he was the Deputy Department Chair and Director of Electives. Hayworth received his B.A. in History from High Point University in the Piedmont-Triad region of North Carolina. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in European History from the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas, where he studied under Dr. Michael V. Leggiere as a Student Fellow of the Military History Center. His doctoral dissertation won the 2016 Edward M. Coffman First Manuscript Prize through the Society for Military History and the 2017 Council of Graduate Schools and ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award at the University of North Texas. His first book, *Revolutionary France's War of Conquest in the Rhineland: Conquering the Natural Frontier, 1792-1797* was published by Cambridge University Press in spring 2019. Currently, he is writing a new history of the 1794 Campaign during the French Revolutionary Wars.

**CDR Keith A. Henderson** is an instructor of Joint Warfighting at Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, Alabama. CDR Henderson is a 1998 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy where he received a BS in Political Science. He also has an MA in Military Operational Art and Science from Air Command and Staff College and an MS in Joint Campaign Planning from National Defense University. A career Naval Aviator, he has deployed on multiple ships in support of contingency operations around the world. His staff tours include assignments at U.S. Africa Command, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

**Dr. Kevin C. Holzimmer** is Professor of Comparative Military Studies at the Air Command and Staff College (ACSC) and currently Chair, Department of International Security. Before his current position at ACSC, he was a research professor at the USAF Air Force Research Institute

and taught at the School for Advanced Air and Space Studies. Dr. Holzimmer has published numerous studies on World War II in the Pacific, including *General Walter Krueger: Unsung Hero of the Pacific War* (University Press of Kansas). He is currently working on a book-length project that examines how the principal air, land, and sea commanders forged an effective joint team that successfully fought the Japanese in Douglas MacArthur's Southwest Pacific Area. In addition to his academic pursuits, Dr. Holzimmer has worked on recent policy concerns, first with GEN David H. Petraeus' USCENTCOM Joint Strategic Assessment Team (9 October 2008- February 2009) and most recently conducting fieldwork in charting a US Air Force strategy based upon President Obama's famous "pivot to Asia" speech. He holds a PhD in military history from Temple University.

**Dr. Michael Ryan Kraig** is Associate Professor of International Security Studies at Air Command and Staff College. He earned his Ph.D. in political science from the University at Buffalo, New York, with a major in international security studies and a minor in comparative politics. Dr. Kraig served in several senior capacities with the Stanley Foundation, a non-profit, non-partisan foundation devoted to researching and advocating security policy options for the US and its competitors that would moderate the extremes of their geopolitical disagreements. He was a frequent traveler to Europe, the Middle East and Asia to give scholarly presentations on US policy thinking and strategy, alongside management and implementation of broad-based "track-2," informal diplomatic dialogues among a wide range of senior national and global political leaders, think-tank analysts, and academics from global capitals such as Tehran, Riyadh, Damascus, Cairo, Dubai, Muscat (Oman), Berlin, London, Moscow, and Beijing. Prior to joining the foundation, Dr. Kraig interned with what is now known as the Government Accountability Office on nuclear weapons issues in the post-Cold War era and presented findings on South Asian nuclear arsenals at the UN 2000 NPT Review Conference.

**Dr. Brent Lawniczak** is an Associate Professor of Military and Security Studies in the Department of Joint Warfighting at Air University's Air Command and Staff College (ACSC). A retired Marine aviator (UH-1N/UC-12), he has served in multiple theaters in various capacities. He is a graduate of Michigan State University, and the United States Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and earned his PhD from Auburn University. He served as the Senior Marine Corps Advisor to the Commandant of ACSC from 2008-2012. Additionally, Brent was qualified as a Command Pilot, Forward Air Controller (Airborne) (FAC(A)), Forward Air Controller (FAC)/Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC), and Weapons and Tactics Instructor. His interests and expertise include joint planning, operational design, joint fires, maritime and amphibious operations, aviation operations, policy formulation, American politics, international relations, the U.S. Constitution, and U.S. military history. He is the author of the book *Confronting the Myth of Soft Power in U.S. Foreign Policy* and a number of articles in various military journals.

**Dr. Sebastian H. Lukasik** is Associate Professor of Comparative Military Studies in the Department of Leader and Research Development at Air Command and Staff College. He holds a Ph.D. in Military History from Duke University. Prior to joining the ACSC faculty, Dr. Lukasik taught as a visiting professor at Duke and at North Carolina State University. His research interests include combat motivation and morale, military culture, and the theory and practice of airpower. Among his most recent publications are book chapters on airpower and

attritional warfare in the First World War, and the airpower thought of William C. Sherman. His work has been published in *The Journal of Military History*, *War in History*, and the *Washington Post*. He is currently revising for publication with Indiana University Press a book manuscript entitled *Perfecting Attrition: The Battles for Blanc Mont, October 1918*.

**Dr. Matthew McDonough** is an Assistant Professor of Military and Security Studies in the Department of Warfighting. While new to ACSC, he has over a decade of experience teaching graduate and undergraduate students. He was most recently a Senior Lecturer of History at Coastal Carolina University in South Carolina and a Visiting Professor of History at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He has taught a variety of military history courses over the years, including the History of the Military Art from antiquity to 1900, History of the Military Art from 1900 to Present, the Civil War and Reconstruction, World War II in Europe, Causes and Consequences of 20<sup>th</sup> century Warfare, and the Army ROTC required course American Military History. Dr. McDonough's research interests include teaching pedagogy, 19<sup>th</sup> century warfare, and military ethics. He holds a PhD in History from Kansas State University and is a graduate of the Military History Instructor Course at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

**Maj F. Jon "Spinner" Nesselhuf** is an Air University Fellow in the Department of International Security. Spinner received his commission in 2010 after completing a B.S. in Military History with a minor in the German language at the United States Air Force Academy. Upon graduation, the Wolff Foundation sponsored his completion of an M.A. in Military History at the University of North Texas in 2012. In 2024, he finished a second Master's of Military Operational Arts and Science at Air Command and Staff College. Spinner will teach Military Theory, International Security, and Leadership in Command in AY25. He will also take an active role in the German elective, the Russian Research Task Force, and recruiting briefers relevant to today's operational challenges. Maj Nesselhuf is an intelligence officer with experience in targeting, signals intelligence, collection management, joint integration, and cyberspace support.

**Lt Col Josh Payne** is an Instructor in the Department of International Security at the United States Air Force's Air Command and Staff College (ACSC). Prior to this assignment, Lt Col Payne was the Commander of Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment 012 and Chair of the Department of Aerospace Studies at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. He holds a Master of Military Operational Art and Science from Air University as well as a Master of Art in Christian Leadership Studies from Liberty University. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Sciences and Leadership and received his commission from the United States Air Force Academy. Lt Col Payne is a Senior Pilot with more than 2,800 hours in the T-37 Tweet, T-1 Jayhawk, KC-135R/T Stratotanker, C-21A Learjet, and C-130J Super Hercules. He has flown combat missions in Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Resolute Support, and Freedom's Sentinel accumulating over 1,000 combat hours.

**Dr. Todd C. Robinson** is an Associate Professor of Military and Security Studies with the School for Advanced Nuclear Deterrence Studies (SANDS) at the Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell, AFB. He was previously an Assistant Professor of Nuclear Enterprise Operations with the Center for Strategic Deterrence Studies at the Air War College. Prior to this, he was a Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at the RAND Corporation and the Associate Director of the Program in Arms Control, Disarmament, and International Security (ACDIS) at the

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is currently a member of CSIS's Project on Nuclear Issues Mid-Career Cadre. His research focuses on nuclear weapons issues, including strategic deterrence and assurance, and nuclear weapons-related law and organizations, which has been published in the *Non-Proliferation Review*, *Comparative Strategy*, *Swords and Ploughshares*, the *Yale Journal of International Affairs*, and the *National Interest*. His forthcoming co-edited volume entitled "Nuclear Responsibility: Exploring Responsible Nuclear Statecraft in an Age of Strategic Competition," will be published by Bloomsbury Press in 2025. He has a B.A. in Asian Studies from the University of Alabama, an M.A. in Security Policy Studies from the Elliott School of International Affairs at The George Washington University, and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Dr. Matthew "Icepick Willie" Schwonek** is Associate Professor of Comparative Military Studies in the Department of International Security of Air Command and Staff College. In the College he has held positions as course director, associate chairman, and chairman, while he currently serves as director of the exchange with the Polish War Studies University. He teaches core courses on international security and military theory as well as electives/research seminars on Politics and Security in Central Europe since 1989 and on the modern Russian Armed Forces. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in East Central European and Russian History from The Ohio State University, where he formerly served as assistant director of the Center For Slavic and East European Studies. He is the author of several articles, essays, and reviews on the armed forces of Poland published in *The Journal of Military History*, *Przegląd historyczny*, *War in History*, *the Polish Review*, *the Journal of Slavic Military Studies*, and the *Journal of First World War Studies*. In progress is a biography of Gen. Kazimierz Sosnkowski (1885-1967). He currently serves on the editorial board of *Przegląd wojskowo-historyczny* (Warsaw).

**Dr. M.V. "Coyote" Smith** is the Director of the Grissom Space Specialization in the Department of Airpower at Air Command and Staff College. He retired from the Air Force as a colonel with over 30 years of experience in various flying, missile, and space assignments. A combat veteran, he served as an operational strategist and targeteer at the air operations center during Allied Force. During Enduring Freedom, he served as a joint strategist on the staff of CMDRUSCENTCOM. Later, he would serve as the Pentagon's Chief Air and Space Strategist on the SECDEF's Strategic Planning Council during Iraqi Freedom. He is a graduate of the USAF Weapons School, ACSC, SAASS, and holds a Ph.D. in strategic studies from the University of Reading in the UK. He loves the Air Force and all things airpower and spacepower and believes you should "Get Some!"

**Michael E. "Rafiki" Weaver**, Ph.D. is an associate professor of comparative military history in the Department of Air Power at the Air Command and Staff College. Since arriving at ACSC in 2002 he has published the books *The Air War in Vietnam* (Texas Tech University Press, 2022), and *Guard Wars: The 28th Infantry Division in World War II* (Indiana University Press, 2010). He has also published ten scholarly articles, mostly on air power topics. Weaver currently teaches Military Theory, the Air Operations and Strategy course, the Contemporary Warfare course, and an annual elective--most recently "The American Experience." In previous years he has taught courses in international security, military history, cultural studies, and World War II, and the Vietnam War. While receiving his doctorate at Temple University under the guidance of Russell Weigley, Weaver taught a variety of American and military history courses. He is

currently writing a book chapter on air superiority for Cambridge University Press. Book #3 will examine air defense during the Cold War. A 1986 graduate of AFROTC at the University of Tennessee, Weaver served for five years as an air weapons director in West Germany and Florida.