



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

DR. THOMAS J. GAJEWSKI

Dr. Thomas J. Gajewski is the Chief, Information Technology at the Air Force Negotiation Center (AFNC) and serves the Department of the Air Force as an Instructional Systems Specialist for the Air University, Air War College at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. In this position, he is charged with department educational technology implementation as well as curriculum development, research, and instruction in the areas of mediation, negotiation and conflict resolution. His research and experiences in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) enhances the mission and exemplary services provided by AFNC to Department of Defense personnel around the world.

Dr. Gajewski is recognized as an academic and research expert in the field of ADR with his contribution entitled, "Exploring leadership styles from a mediator's perspective: A phenomenological study examining four specific organizational leadership styles and their relationship to four mediation styles as summarized by Leonard I. Riskin." Additionally, Dr. Gajewski's academic degrees includes an Engineering degree in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering at the University of Massachusetts @ Amherst as well as a minor in German, and several higher educational degrees from Pepperdine University: Masters in International Business from the Graziadio School of Business, Masters in Dispute Resolution from Straus Institute and a Doctorate in Education from the School of Education and Psychology.



His experiences include substantial work in the private, education, government and military sectors. At General Electric Company (GE), Dr. Gajewski held assignments in international marketing and manufacturing in the military aircraft engine and locomotive divisions. He then transitioned to academics where he was the Program Chair for the School of Business at Westwood College Los Angeles Campus with responsibilities including curriculum development and administrator/supervisor responsibility for undergraduate and graduate level business management programs. Dr. Gajewski then volunteered for a 27-month assignment with the Peace Corps and was stationed in the town of Guanajuato in the state of Guanajuato, México. His assignment there was with CIMAT - Centro de Investigación en Matemáticas A.C. with duties encompassing International Business Advising and Cross-Cultural Organizational Strengthening Specialist as well as supporting several established charities and non-government organizations in the local area as a representative of the US Government. Upon completion of his Peace Corps assignment, Dr. Gajewski accepted his next position with the Department of the Air Force in 2018 and was stationed at Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme, CA serving as a Supervisory Training Instructor for the Air Education and Training Command at the 344th Training Squadron, Detachment 1.

In his free time, Dr. Gajewski serves as a volunteer in several non-profit organizations – member and Treasurer (2019 to 2022) for the Santa Barbara Peace Corps Association 501(c)3 and Friends of Mexico, an affiliate of the National Peace Corps Association, as a Board of Directors member and as Treasurer (2023 to present). These organizations serve as a network and resource for prospective, current, former, and future Peace Corps Volunteers across the United States and Mexico.

EDUCATION

1992 Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering, University of Massachusetts @ Amherst, Amherst

2002 International Masters in Business Administration, Graziadio School of Business and Management, Pepperdine University, Malibu, California and EBS Universität für Wirtschaft (Business) und Recht (Law), Östrich–Winkel, Hessen, Germany

2007 Masters of Dispute Resolution, Straus Institute of Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University, Malibu, California

2014 Educational Doctorate in Organizational Leadership, Graduate School of Education and Psychology, Pepperdine University, Los Angeles, California

CAREER CHRONOLOGY

1. May 1984 to March 1987, Self–propelled Field Artillery Systems Mechanic, 77th Field Artillery, Babenhausen Kaserne, Babenhausen, Germany

2. June 1990 to January 1991, Coop Education, Pratt & Whitney, East Hartford, CT

3. January 1992 to December 1994, Manufacturing Management Program (MMP), General Electric Company, Lynn MA and Erie, PA

4. January 1994 to December 1997, International Proposal and Requisition Leader, GE, Erie PA

5. January 1998 to December 1998, International Program Manager, GE, Kassel, Germany

6. January 1999 to May 2000, Service and Facilities Manager, GE, Council Bluffs, IA

7. August 2006 to March 2016, Program Chair and Professor, Westwood College, Los Angeles, CA

8. March 2016 to May 2018, Technology Transfer for Economic Dev, Peace Corps Volunteer, Guanajuato, Mexico

9. November 2018 to February 2022, Supervisory Training Instructor – Intermediate Supervisor, Department of Air Force, Naval Base Ventura County, Port Hueneme, CA

10. February 2022 to present, Instructional Systems Specialist, DAF, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, AL

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2025 Air Force Squadron Officer School – 200 hours

2024 Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University, Mediating the Litigated Case – 40 hours

2022 DAF Force Supt Career Field Team Challenge of Ldrshp & Ldrshp Assess – 65 CLP/CPE – 72 hours

2022 DAF Emerging Leader Course - MAFHRMS421 ELC – 22G – 32 hours

2022 Harvard University, Program on Negotiations, Dealing with Difficult People and Problems – 24 hours

2022 Basic Mediation Course – MAFHRMS126 – 32 hours

2022 DAF Experienced Supervisors Course – MAFHRMS420 22B – 10 hours

2021 Technical Writer Course - V3AIRTXXXX 0W1 – 64 hours

2020 ADDIE Course – V3AIRTXXXX 0A1A – 40 hours

2020 Military Personnel Management Course – MAFHRMS416 - 2020C – 16 hours

2019 Intermediate International Military Student Officer – XSPT221 W01 – 32 hours

2019 Introduction to Security Cooperation – SC-101 – 12 hours

2019 Training Supervisor Course – L3AIRTXXXX 0S2A – 56 hours

2019 New Supervisor Course – MAFHRMS425 – 36 hours

2019 Basic Instructor Course – V3AIRTXXXX 0B2B – 160 hours

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

2019, Outstanding 37th Training Group Civilian Supervisor (Category II) for 2nd Quarter

2021, Outstanding 37th Training Squadron Civilian Supervisor (Category III) for 4th Quarter

PUBLICATIONS

Exploring leadership styles from a mediator's perspective: A phenomenological study examining four specific organizational leadership styles and their relationship to four mediation styles as summarized by Leonard I. Riskin, 2014

Understanding the environment and the boundary of the organization through open systems theory and contingency theory, 2023

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

February 2019 to present, Member, Santa Barbara Peace Corps Association 501(c)3

February 2023 to present, Non-Profit Director, Treasurer, Friends of Mexico Affiliate of National Peace Corps Assoc.

CURRENT AS OF APRIL 2025