

Congressional Biographies



Hon. Darren Soto

U.S. Congress, 9th District, FL

Darren Soto was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2016 to represent Florida's Ninth Congressional District, which includes all of Osceola and parts of Orange and Polk Counties.

Born to a Puerto Rican father and an Italian American mother, Darren's upbringing influenced his passion for public service and helping those in need. After learning the value of hard work from his parents, Darren graduated from Rutgers University and the George Washington University School of Law.

Upon graduation, Darren opened his own practice in Central Florida, where he practiced family law, civil litigation, and real estate law.

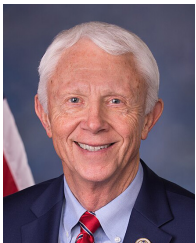
With a desire to further help the men and women he advocated for as a lawyer, Darren entered public service in 2006 when he was appointed to serve on the Orlando Civil

Service Board and as the treasurer and vice president of communications for the Orange County Young Democrats. Soon thereafter, he was elected to the state House and later to the state Senate. Serving in the Florida Legislature for a decade, he fought to create high-paying jobs, increase access to higher education and ensure clean water, land, and air for his constituents. Darren spearheaded the passage of landmark legislation to protect families of fallen firefighters, give victims of sexual assault more time to report their attackers, and allow Dreamers to be admitted to the Florida Bar.

In 2016, he took his public service to a national level after being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. In his first term in Congress, he passed the most laws of any Freshman Member in the House. Now in his fourth term, Darren has established himself as a strong advocate for the environment, hurricane relief, emerging technologies, and the fight to protect the health and safety of his constituents.

He currently serves on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the House Committee on Agriculture. Additionally, Darren is the Co-Chair of Policy of the Future Forum Caucus, Vice Chair of Policy of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and a proud member of the New Democrat Coalition, Problem Solvers Caucus, Congressional Progressive Caucus, LGBTQ Equality Caucus, and others.

The first Floridian of Puerto Rican descent to serve in Congress, Darren is proud to represent the hard-working men and women who make Central Florida's theme parks world-renowned, who grow more citrus and raise more cattle than anywhere else in the state, and who explore the farthest reaches of the galaxy from the Kennedy Space Center. From fighting for the needs of Central Floridians and our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico to being a strong voice on healthcare and the environment, Darren is proud to serve his fellow Americans and the constituents



Hon. Jack Bergman (Invited)

U.S. Congress, 1st District, MI

Growing up in the Midwest, Jack Bergman's parents instilled in him the values that drive the American Dream: If you work hard, never quit, and strive for excellence, you will find success. Those values are what guided him to the rank of Lt. General in the United States Marine Corps, empowered him to successfully own and operate a small business, and allowed him to enjoy a 22-year career as a commercial airline pilot.

Jack proudly represents the First District of Michigan. The boundaries contain the entire Upper Peninsula and all of northern lower Peninsula. Altogether, the district makes up about 44% of the land mass of the state of Michigan. The Bergman family roots in Michigan's Upper Peninsula stretch back to

the late 1800's where his ancestors worked as iron miners. Serving his country in uniform for 40 years, Jack has spent time all around the United States – and world. Nearly three decades ago, Jack and his wife Cindy settled in Watersmeet, on the western edge of Michigan's beautiful Upper Peninsula.

Jack is a grandfather to ten grandchildren. This has always been one of the largest factors in his service in Congress. When Jack sees what is happening in Washington, he knows that we are not doing our best at leaving our children and grandchildren a better place. From his business to his distinguished military career, and now in Congress – Jack Bergman does not accept the status-quo as an acceptable path forward. Jack is driven by his commitment to serving others. While in the military, he launched two successful startup businesses in the medical equipment

field, maintaining an obligation to both his nation and his customers simultaneously. As an entrepreneurial leader focused on mission accomplishment and customer satisfaction, Jack knows how to get things done.

Hard work and commitment made the United States the most exceptional nation in the world. Those are the principles that have guided Jack's life, and are the principles that he is bringing to Washington. He believes what most Michiganders believe: Americans know how to live their lives better than politicians or bureaucrats do. Jack's life has been dedicated to service and defending the Constitution. He is the highest ranking combat Veteran to have ever served in the U.S. House. He is shaking up the status quo in both Congress and will continue defending the United States from those who want to weaken it, both domestically and abroad.



Hon. Kat Cammack (Invited)

U.S. Congress, 3rd District,

Congresswoman Kat Cammack proudly serves Florida's Third Congressional District, covering 12 counties in North Central Florida.

Kat is a third-generation commercial sandblaster who grew up on a cattle ranch outside Denver, Colorado, participating in local 4-H programs and the local rodeo.

After graduating from college at Metro State University in Denver, Kat ran Ted Yoho's successful congressional campaign in 2012 and served for nearly a decade as the deputy chief of staff for Florida's Third Congressional District. While in that role, she advocated for small business owners, veterans and

military families, agricultural producers, and hardworking families like her own, motivated by her family's story.

She holds a Master's Degree in National Defense & Strategic Studies from the United States Naval War College.

Kat is in her third term serving on the House Agriculture and Energy & Commerce Committees, where she champions healthcare reform, supports Florida's farmers and ranchers, and fights to rein in inflation and supply-chain challenges. She is the author of the REINS Act, the largest regulatory reform effort in history, saving taxpayers over \$2 trillion annually.

She chairs the Emerging Tech Task Force, leading House Republicans on issues like AI, quantum computing, and biotech, and co-founded the Republican Women's Caucus in 2025. A strong voice on national security, she has exposed the border crisis and fought to counter the Chinese Communist Party's influence. Above all, Kat prioritizes transparency, accountability, and delivering results for Florida families.

Kat is the proud wife to her husband Matt, a Gainesville native, who serves with the Gainesville Fire Rescue as a firefighter/paramedic. Kat and Matt recently welcomed their daughter, Augusta Dair, and in their rare bit of spare time enjoy caring for their backyard chickens and ducks, fishing, football, traveling, and skeet & trap.

Keynote Biographies



Steven Aberle

CEO, Rohirrim

Steven Aberle is the CEO, Founder and Chief Scientist of Rohirrim, where he and the team are building AI systems that fundamentally change how government contracts are won,

awarded, and managed, serving both the companies competing for work and the agencies acquiring it. He holds patents for vector attributable language models and domain-aware generative AI solution for enterprises. Prior to Rohirrim, Steven was an

Applied AI engineer and Natural Language Processing researcher working with some of the largest unstructured data collections in the world at Los Alamos National Laboratories.



Amy Henninger, Ph.D.

Director, Office of Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of War

Dr. Amy E. Henninger was sworn in as the Director, Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT&E) on March 23, 2026. A Presidential appointee confirmed by the United States Senate, she serves as the senior advisor to the Secretary of Defense on operational and live fire test and evaluation of Department of War (DoW) weapon systems. This position entails the oversight of all operational test and evaluation executed in the

DoW, to include the independent evaluations of select acquisition programs cumulatively valued at over \$1.5 trillion.

An established leader at the intersection of advanced technology and national security, Dr. Henninger has built a three-decade career that bridges government, industry, and academia. Within the DoW, Dr. Henninger previously served as the first Senior Advisor for Software and Cybersecurity to DOT&E, where she was the Pentagon's final technical authority for assessing these areas on major acquisition programs. Henninger also served as the

Army's Modeling & Simulation Executive, providing leadership for its \$10B M&S portfolio, and as a Defense Intelligence Senior Leader, where she guided a cross-agency team in developing the Defense Intelligence Agency's Digital Futures Strategy. Most recently, Henninger was the Senior Science Advisor for Advanced Computing at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), shaping strategy and leading research in fields such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cybersecurity, and Quantum Information Science.

Dr. Henninger has also demonstrated her ability to translate advanced concepts into practical applications within the private sector. She founded a P&L center for the AI startup Soar Technology, Inc., a technology company focused on third-wave AI solutions. Over her tenure, Dr. Henninger led research teams sponsored by DARPA and other Defense agencies, growing the office by 400%. Her private sector experience also includes

co-leading the development of a distributed virtual training system used to train over 1.5 million soldiers.

Dr. Henninger's professional experience is built upon a strong academic foundation, including a Ph.D. in Computer Engineering with emphasis in AI, along with five other degrees across the mathematical, computing, engineering, social, and management sciences,

providing a broad base of analytical skills with focused expertise in advanced technology. Blending deep academic knowledge with practical, hands-on expertise, Dr. Henninger has authored over 80 publications, taught university classes in computer science and AI, trained with the NSA's cyber red team, and received a variety of awards for her work.



William Roper Jr., Ph.D.

CEO, Istari

Dr. Will Roper is the founder and CEO of Istari Digital, where he is building infrastructure for AI-native

technologies, expanded opportunities for startups, led the Defense Production Act response during COVID, and modernized pilot standards to broaden access. He also founded and led the Strategic Capabilities Office, driving the Pentagon's shift to great-power competition and delivering over 50 advanced prototypes, including its first AI program.

A Distinguished Professor at Georgia Tech, Dr. Roper focuses on the intersection of technology and national security. He is a Rhodes Scholar with a doctorate in mathematics from Oxford, a former MIT Lincoln Laboratory researcher, and a recipient of the Pentagon's highest civilian service awards.

engineering. Previously, Dr. Roper served as the Senior Acquisition Executive for the U.S. Air Force and Space Force, overseeing \$60 billion annually across 5,300 aircraft and satellites. He accelerated adoption of emerging

Speaker Biographies



BG Christine Beeler, USA

Capability Program Executive, U. S. Army Capability Program Executive Simulation, Training, Test and Threat (CPE ST3)

Brigadier General Christine A. Beeler is the Capability Program

Army Mission and Installation Contracting Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Sam Houston, Texas.

Executive (CPE) of the U. S. Army Capability Program Executive Simulation, Training, Test and Threat (CPE ST3) headquartered in Orlando, Florida. CPE ST3 executes a multi-billion-dollar testing, training, and threat portfolio annually, and is staffed by 980 military, government civilian and service support contractors. The organization also manages a Foreign Military Sales program which supports more than 65 countries.

Brigadier General Beeler was a distinguished military graduate and commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps through the Army ROTC program at Boston University in 1991, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She began her Army Acquisition career in 2001, and is certified in Defense Contracting, Program Management and Logistics.

and a Master of Business Administration from Webster University. Brigadier General Beeler's military education includes a Master of Science in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. She is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Before assuming the charter as CPE, Brigadier General Beeler served as the commanding general of the U. S. Army Contracting Command (ACC) headquartered at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama. Prior to ACC, Brigadier General Beeler served as the Commanding General for the U.S.

Her advanced education includes a Master of Arts in Administration and Management from Bowie State University, Prince George's County, Maryland; a Master of Public Administration in Environmental Management from Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Alabama;

Brigadier General Beeler has held numerous command and staff positions. Her key assignments include Logistics Officer, 501st Corps Support Group, Uijongbu, South Korea; Commander, 595th Maintenance Company, Songnam, South Korea; Contracting Officer, Doha, Qatar; Assistant Product Manager, Patriot Missile and Medium Extended Air Defense Systems, Huntsville, Alabama; Professor of Program Management and Course Director, Army Acquisition Basic Course, Huntsville, Alabama; Commander, Army Contracting Command-Kuwait, Camp

Arifjan, Kuwait; Contracting Operations Staff Officer, Expeditionary Contracting Command, Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama; Executive Officer to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Procurement, Army Staff, Pentagon; Commander, 414th Contracting Support Brigade, Vicenza, Italy; Deputy Director of Contracting, United

States Army Corps of Engineers; and Deputy Commanding General, OCONUS Operations, United States Army Contracting Command.

Her military decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters, the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with six oak leaf clusters, the

Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, and the Army Superior Unit Award. She is airborne qualified and authorized to wear the Army Staff Badge.

Jim Blake, Ph.D.

Consultant and Senior Mentor, J T Blake, LLC



Dr. Blake has extensive experience in the military, government, academia, and small to large businesses.

He retired from industry as the Senior Vice President for Integrated Training Solutions at Cubic Global Defense (CGD). In this role, he held the responsibility for providing financial and operational support to U.S. military programs, Foreign Military Sales (FMS), and customers with industry-leading training products and services. Before joining CGD, Dr. Blake served as the Program Executive Officer for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI) and the Head of Contracting Activity (HCA).

Dr. Blake was a member of the Senior Executive Service for over a decade. During this time, he led the PEO for nine years and was the only Army PEO who held dual responsibilities as an HCA. PEO STRI provided materiel solutions and services in modeling, simulation, training, and test/instrumentation to support the Soldier. PEO STRI annually executed a multi-billion-dollar

program and supported an FMS program for forty countries. Dr. Blake is also a highly accomplished acquisition professional, holding the highest-level certifications in six acquisition career fields.

Dr. Blake, a veteran, served in the U.S. Army in ranks from Private to Colonel. He is a dual-rated Master Army Aviator and has held various positions during his military career, including aviation operations in Vietnam. His final military assignment was as the Army's Senior Uniformed Army Scientist.

Prior to his role as the PEO, Dr. Blake was the Deputy Program Executive Officer. His previous government assignment was at the Simulation, Training and Instrumentation Command (STRICOM) as the Program Manager for the Institute for Creative Technologies (ICT), an internationally recognized University Affiliated Research Center for Advanced Modeling and Simulation.

Dr. Blake's awards include the AUSA Sunshine Chapter Earle L. Denton Award, which recognizes outstanding service to the Central

Florida Army Family. He was also inducted into the National Center for Simulation (NCS) Hall of Fame for his significant contributions to advancements in modeling and simulation. Additionally, he received the National Training and Simulation Association (NTSA) Governor's Award for Lifetime Achievement in Training & Simulation and the Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award, which reflects his continuous leadership commitment to superior organizational achievement and workforce development.

Dr. Blake holds a diverse set of educational qualifications. He graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Defense Systems Management College, and the U.S. Army War College. In addition to his military education, he earned a B.S. degree in Accounting from the University of Tampa, an M.S. degree in Systems Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School, a Ph.D. degree in Computer Science from Duke University, and is a graduate of the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, Executive Series in Finance and Accounting for the Non-Financial Manager.

Laura Freeman, Ph.D.

Deputy Director, Virginia Tech National Security Institute (NSI)



Dr. Laura Freeman serves as the deputy director of Virginia Tech National Security Institute and is a

research professor of statistics. Her research leverages experimental methods in the domains of cyber-physical systems, data science, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning to address critical challenges in national security. She develops new methods

for test and evaluation, focusing on emerging system technology. She also serves as the Assistant Dean for Research for the College of Science at Virginia Tech. Dr. Freeman is also a member of the Research Council for the Systems Engineering Research Center (SERC); in this role, she serves as a critical liaison between the SERC and federal government partners. In 2025, Dr. Freeman was designated as a Fellow for the American

Statistical Association (ASA) and a Founding Fellow for the International Test and Evaluation Association (ITEA).

Dr. Freeman has a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering, a M.S. in Statistics and a Ph.D. in Statistics, all from Virginia Tech. Her areas of statistical expertise include designed experiments, reliability analysis, and industrial statistics. Her Ph.D. research was on design and analysis of experiments for reliability data.



Kevin Roney

Senior Program Manager AI ML, Collins Aerospace

Kevin Roney is a senior manager at Collins Aerospace, where he helps guide the adoption

of agentic AI/ML to modernize legacy BMC2 and ISR mission systems. His work includes shaping the Mission Operations and Data Intelligence agentic AI/ML

framework, helping leaders explore the art of the possible, and demonstrating practical, trustworthy AI in action.

Kevin has worked on and off with AI/ML technology for more than 20 years and spent the past decade delivering enterprise analytics solutions. He focuses on the real world challenges of integrating AI into operational systems and advocating for the value—and

limits—of what AI can responsibly deliver. He brings hands on experience making agentic AI real in environments where trust and mission relevance matter most.

Outside of work, you'll find Kevin and his wife, Sharlene, golfing, walking their Boxer, Tigger, or leading medical mission trips to Central America.



F Schnell

Deputy Portfolio Acquisition Executive, Infrastructure, Operational Test and Training Infrastructure (OTTI)

Mr. F Schnell is the Deputy Program Executive Officer (PEO), Operational

Test and Training Infrastructure (OTTI), Space Systems Command, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Mr. Schnell assists in leading a combined team of military, government civilians, and contractors at multiple geographically separated units in the execution of a \$4B+ portfolio to create a robust, enduring OTTI. These advanced systems provide the foundation for High-End Advanced Test, Training, and Tactics Development by all Guardians. As DPEO OTTI, Mr. Schnell's

portfolio includes the National Space Test and Training Complex and enterprise Space Training systems providing interconnected, scalable, and distributed physical and digital ranges for full- spectrum test and training capabilities for the joint warfighter.

Mr. Schnell's most recent assignment was Director, Battlespace Awareness Acquisition Delta, Space Domain Power Directorate, Space Domain Awareness and Combat Power Directorate, Space Systems Command, Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado leading 380 military, civilian, and contractor personnel with a \$628 million budget. He oversaw several primary lines of effort including Advanced

SDA Capabilities & Battlespace Integration, GEO & LEO/MEO Sensing Systems, NORAD Cheyenne Mountain Complex Integrated Threat Warning and Attack Assessment program, Future Military Sales, and Strategic space-based Early Missile Warning portfolios. Mr. Schnell's civil service includes Logistics Sustainment of the Space Launch and Test Range, Program Management in support to the Space Innovation, and Development Center, and Director of Mission Support the Air Force Warfare Center, Detachment 1.



Kay Stanney, Ph.D.

CEO & Founder, Design Interactive

Dr. Kay M. Stanney is Founder of Design Interactive, a small business pioneering digital transformation

through human-systems integration and eXtended Reality (XR) innovation. Inducted into the National Academy of Engineering (2019) for contributions to human factors engineering through virtual reality technology and strategic leadership, and into the inaugural IEEE Virtual Reality Academy (2022), she is recognized internationally for advancing XR technology, adaptive training systems, and digital transformation strategies across defense, federal agencies, and Fortune 500 organizations. Her research has shaped current-generation XR headsets and

contributed to immersive experiences at Universal Studios, Disney, Chevron, Procter & Gamble, and numerous military applications.

Dr. Stanney currently leads strategic digital transformation initiatives, including: developing a Human Systems Engineering roadmap for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to drive care transformation across the Office of Health Informatics; completing an enterprise-wide digital maturity assessment for U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command with a comprehensive transformation roadmap featuring 50+ prioritized initiatives spanning infrastructure optimization, AI/ML integration, data governance, and workforce development; and previously developing a Human Systems Integration roadmap for

the Department of Homeland Security to institutionalize consistent HSI processes across the department. Her extensive contributions to strategic R&D roadmaps include serving on National Academy of Sciences committees (FAA air traffic controller staffing), leading NATO research task groups (immersive environment optimization for military personnel), consulting for the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board, and developing roadmaps for NASA, major theme parks, and DoD agencies focused on emerging technology adoption, sustainability, and operational effectiveness.

Dr. Stanney pioneered formalization of XR research and development by editing the definitive Handbook of Virtual Environments

(2002, 2014), co-founding the first International Conference on Virtual Reality, and establishing the Virtual Environments Technical Group within the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society. She holds a B.S. in

Industrial Engineering from SUNY Buffalo, served as a manufacturing/quality engineer at Intel Corporation, earned her M.S. and Ph.D. in Human Factors Engineering from Purdue University, and dedicated 16 years

to academia as an Industrial Engineering professor and Trustee Chair at the University of Central Florida. In 2022, she was celebrated as Businesswoman of the Year by the Orlando Business Journal.



Brian Stensrud, Ph.D.

Technical Fellow, Artificial Intelligence, CAE USA

Dr. Brian Stensrud is currently serving as CAE's Technical Fellow for Artificial Intelligence, providing guidance

and strategy on the adoption, application, and design of AI solutions across both its Defense and Civil Aviation business units.

Brian has over 20 years' experience designing, developing, and deploying AI-enabled training and decision-support systems, and has led the execution of over 30 DoD-sponsored RDT&E efforts across many of the services including ARL, ONR, AFRL, and DARPA. Brian received his Ph.D. in Artificial Intelligence from the University of Central Florida in 2005, and

holds undergraduate degrees in Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Mathematics from the University of Florida. Brian works out of CAE's Orlando office, and resides in nearby Winter Springs with his wife, Kacey, and his three boys.



Rodney Stevens, SES

Program Executive Officer, Training Directorate, AFLCMC

Mr. Rodney Stevens, a member of the Senior Executive Service, is the Program Executive Officer,

Training Directorate at the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. He leads over 1,700 employees and more than \$7.43B. Mr. Stevens provides strategic direction and senior-level oversight for the Directorate's four Divisions, located primarily at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Tinker Air Force Base, and Hill Air Force Base. Under his leadership, these Divisions deliver critical materiel solutions and manage the acquisition life cycle for a Training specific portfolio, including the T-7 Red Hawk, Advanced Training Capabilities, Simulators and over 1,500 fielded Training Aircraft for the USAF and its International Partners.

During his Air Force career, he attained a diverse background in acquisition, aircraft maintenance, and staff experience. He served as a Materiel Leader for F-22 Sustainment, a National Defense Fellow to a US Senator, Chief of the Congressional

Operations Branch, and was an F-15E Maintenance Operations Officer. Stevens retired from active duty as the Chief of the

Development and Integration Division, Fighters and Bombers Directorate, leading a multi-functional team executing a Light Air Attack (LAA) program for Foreign Military Sales and the USAF with focus on Experimentation and Combat Air Advisory pilot training.

Prior to his current position, he served as the Deputy Program Executive Officer and Deputy Director for the Fighters and Advanced Aircraft Directorate, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. In this role, he was responsible for the development, production, fielding, sustainment, and modernization of the Air Force fighter portfolio, which included the A-10, F-15, F-16, F-22, and special programs, as well as overseeing the development of the F-47 program. His previous assignments also include serving as the Deputy PEO of the Rapid Sustainment Office, where he led a lean, agile organization focused on rapidly fielding sustainment capabilities to enhance mission readiness and reduce sustainment costs across the Air Force.



Alyssa Tanaka, Ph.D.

Director, AI R&D, Advent Health

Alyssa Tanaka, Ph.D., is an AI research and development leader with 11 years of experience applying

artificial intelligence to improve clinical care, patient outcomes, and healthcare education.

Her work includes developing clinical decision support tools, medical training technologies, human-AI trust research, and robotic surgery education. She has led software R&D programs for the Department of Defense, including serving as Principal Investigator for major DARPA, TATRC, and DHA initiatives.

She holds a Ph.D. in Modeling and Simulation from the University of Central Florida and currently serves as Director of AI Research and Development at AdventHealth, where she leads a team of scientists and engineers focused on solving healthcare challenges through AI.



Col Wyndee Young, USMC

Program Manager, Training Systems

Colonel Young hails from Oak Harbor, WA; graduate from Hampton University with a Bachelor of

Science in Accounting. Upon graduation and commissioning in 2002, she attended The Basic School, then completed Ground Supply Officer Course. In May 2003, she reported to Marine Tactical Air Control Squadron 18, Okinawa, Japan, where she served as the Supply Officer, managing supply account and the significant transfer of the command's individual issue equipment to consolidated issue facilities.

In June 2005, First Lieutenant Young transferred to Combined Arms Training Center (CATC), Camp Fuji, Japan for duty as the S-4 Officer. She managed the logistic support for units conducting training and support to the CATC personnel, including six functions of logistics.

In June 2006, she was transferred to Marine Corps Recruiting Depot, Parris Island, SC for duty as a Series and Company Commander. After successful completion of Company Command, Captain Young served as Headquarters and Service Battalion's S-4 Officer. In May 2009, Captain Young attended Contracting Officer Course, Camp Johnson, NC. Upon graduation in September 2009, Captain Young reported as a student to Combined Logistics Captain Career Course (CLCCC), Fort Lee, VA. In March 2010, Captain Young graduated CLCCC, reported to Combat Logistic Regiment 27, 2D Marine Logistics Group for duty as a Contingency Contracting Officer, and attached to the Marine Corps Installation East Regional Contracting Office, Camp Lejeune, NC. In August 2010, Captain Young deployed to Regional Contracting Center, Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, as a Contingency

Contracting Officer supporting units in Helmand Province with construction, supplies, and services contracts.

In February of 2011, Captain Young reported to II Marine Expeditionary Force, G-4 to serve as the Contracting Advisor, providing oversight for contract officer deployments and planning future operations. In July 2012, Captain Young trained and deployed with the Operational Coordination Center Regional Southwest Security Force Advise and Assist Team (SFAAT), as the Supply Officer Advisor to the Afghan Army Supply Officer and coordinated organic logistics support to SFAAT.

In July 2014, Major Young attended Marine Corps Command and Staff College, Quantico Va. In August 2015, Major Young assumed the duties of Director of Regional Contracting, Expeditionary Contracting Platoon, 3D Marine Logistics Group, Camp Kinser, Okinawa, Japan led small contract team and conducted multinational exercise contract planning, execution, and management in the Pacific Command.

In July 2017, Major Young assumed the duties of Executive Officer, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, Twenty-nine Palms, CA. In March 2018, Major Young was selected as the Logistics Officer to deploy with I Marine Expeditionary Force's Task Force Spartan, Al Taqaddum 18.2, Iraq, managing Camp Manion's Base Operations Support Integration mission, which included contracted life support, managing the air and ground transportation, maintenance, and overseeing engineer support.

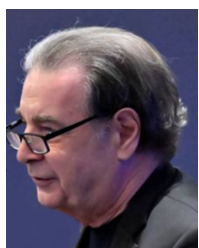
In June 2019, Lieutenant Colonel Young reported to Headquarters Marine Corps Installation and Logistics, (LP) Sustainment,

Operational Contract Support Section Head. She managed operational contract support policy development, planning and contract manning, training, and equipping.

In August 2020, Lieutenant Colonel Young reported to Portfolio Manager, Command Element Systems (CES), Program Manager Office Wargaming Capability, Marine Corps Systems Command. She managed the cost, schedule, and performance of the Marine Corps Wargaming and Analysis Center infrastructure audio visual and information technology design. Remaining in CES in May 2022, she was assigned as the Deputy Program Manager, Communication Systems, and managed the staff and product teams to effectively execute developing and fielding necessary equipment to Marines.

In April 2023, she assumed role the Program Manager for Wargaming Capability (PM WGC), responsible for achieving the critical program milestones to improve wargaming and analysis technology efforts and infrastructure installation into the Wargaming and Analysis Center. In October 2023, PM WGC became a Direct Report Program Manager.

Colonel Young's personal decorations include Meritorious Service Medals; a Joint Commendation Medal; Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medals and Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal. Colonel Young holds a Master of Business Administration from Webster University (2008) and Masters of Science Military Studies from Marine Corps University (2015). She also completed U.S. Navy's Insights into Industry Management Course Darden Executive Fellowship Course February 2025.



Greg Zacharias, Ph.D.

Managing Principal, Teleolytics, LLC

Greg Zacharias has served as an advisor to senior government and corporate leadership, a strategic science

and technology planner, and an entrepreneur

focused on technology-driven innovation. He co-founded and led Charles River Analytics, an employee-owned human-system S&T firm, served as USAF Chief Scientist, was the inaugural Chief Scientist for DOD's Operational Test & Evaluation Office, and recently served

as AIAA's Aerospace R&D Domain Lead. He authored Autonomous Horizons: The Way Forward, USAF's roadmap for developing and operating autonomous vehicles. He earned BS, MS, and PhD degrees in Aeronautics and Astronautics from MIT.

NTSA Leadership Biographies



VADM Sean S. Buck, USN (Ret.)

President, NTSA

Vice Admiral Sean S. Buck, USN (Ret.) is the President of the National Training and Simulation Association (NTSA). VADM Buck is a seasoned leader with over 40 years of experience in commissioned military service and higher education. He served as the 63rd Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy, where he led the institution through significant challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring

continuous operations in support of its critical mission of developing the leaders of tomorrow for our nation. Throughout his career, he commanded at many levels, including as Commander of U.S. Fourth Fleet & Naval Forces Southern Command, where he was responsible for key security and humanitarian operations across the Americas. In his current role, VADM Buck leads NTSA in advancing the training, modeling, and simulation industry, representing and advocating for its membership that drives

innovation in defense and technology sectors. His leadership extends to serving on advisory boards for Academy Securities, Synergist Technology, and First Command Financial Services, and contributing to the development of the U.S. Naval Academy's athletic programs. VADM Buck holds a Master's in Security Policy Studies from The George Washington University and has completed executive education at Harvard and MIT. His commitment to excellence continues to shape the future of training and simulation.



Debbie Langelier, CEM

Senior Vice President, NTSA

Debbie Langelier is the Senior Vice President of the National Training and Simulation Association (NTSA), a nonprofit organization in Arlington, VA. Langelier oversees management of all NTSA staff and operations including membership, marketing, and events. She initiated and is responsible for maintaining a high-level security program both for NTSA and I/ITSEC.

Langelier joined NTSA in 2004 and was previously Assistant Vice President. She previously held the title of Director of Exhibits & Sponsorships, a role in which she is credited for a growth rate of more than 30 percent. In this role, she was responsible for exhibits, sponsorships, and marketing for six events, including the Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC), the largest training and simulation event of its kind in the world. Her expertise in marketing has let her push toward the future with a year-round digital presence.

Langelier is a Certified Exhibit Manager and has worked in the field for over 30 years. With her background of more than a decade in customer service, creative service, and association sales management, Langelier knows what truly drives the non-profit sector and trade show industry. She knows that her talent in connecting people to people is one of the most important achievements in all organizations of which she has been a part of.



Linda Brent, Ed.D.

Strategic Planning, NTSA; Chief Executive Officer, The ASTA Group, LLC

Dr. Linda Brent has developed, established, and operated government-oriented businesses for the past 25 years. She manages a staff of senior professionals engaged in all aspects of business conduct with existing and emerging DoD-focused businesses. Dr. Brent also provides support to the National Training and Simulation Association (NTSA) for Strategic Planning, the I/ITSEC Conference Committee, liaison and support to the Modeling and Simulation Congressional Caucus, and Chair of the National Committee for Science,

Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) activities. She and her organization provide national, regional, and local support for initiatives around the nation on the improvement of education for our nation's children and youth. Dr. Brent brings 25 years of experience in both the defense industry and other government agencies, has made numerous presentations at state, national, and international conferences, and has conducted research and published papers in the areas of training, simulation, and psychology. Additionally, she is actively involved in numerous national and international professional organizations supporting the

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