

National Defense University

Alumni Continuing Education Security Seminar

Cooperation, Conflict, and Competition



Washington, D.C.
September 6 - 10, 2021

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National Defense University

Alumni Continuing Education Security Seminar

Schedule of Events: September 6-10, 2021

* NDU Alumnus

MONDAY, September 6

Travel Day

Travel Day

- 1200 – 1700 Participant Registration
- Canopy by Hilton Washington DC, The Wharf*
- Address: 975 7th St SW, Washington, DC 20024
- 1700 – 1900 Icebreaker
- Canopy by Hilton Washington DC, The Wharf*
- Address: 975 7th St SW, Washington, DC 20024
- Uniform: Casual (Open collar)

TUESDAY, September 7

Uniform – Class A, Civilian – Business Suit and Tie

- 0750 – 0800 Bus pick-up at *Canopy by Hilton Hotel* and transit to NDU
- 0800 – 0845 Coffee/Networking & Late Registration
- 0845 – 0900 Seminar Opening Announcements
- 0900 – 0930 Keynote Address from NDU President Lt. Gen Michael T. Plehn
- 0930 – 1045 Group Photo at Roosevelt Hall Steps and Coffee Break
- 1045 – 1200 Plenary 1: Human and Environmental Security
Moderator: Dr. Cynthia Watson, NDU Interim Provost
Speaker: Mr. Chris Milligan, USAID Counselor*





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1200 – 1300	Networking Lunch
1300 – 1400	Breakout Session 1
1400 – 1415	Afternoon Coffee Break
1415 – 1515	Elective Session 1
1530 – 1630	International Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
1630 – 1900	Fall Welcome Reception Location: Lincoln Hall Northern Entrance (Outdoor)
1900 – 1915	Bus pick-up from NDU and transport back to <i>Canopy by Hilton</i> hotel





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Schedule of Events: September 6-10, 2021

WEDNESDAY, September 8

Uniform – Class B, Civilian – Business Casual (Jacket, Open collar)

- 0750 – 0800 Bus pick-up at Canopy by Hilton hotel and transit to NDU
- 0800 – 0830 Coffee/Networking
- 0830 – 0845 Administrative Announcements
- 0845 – 1015 Plenary 2: U.S.-Afghanistan Policy, Effects, and Outcomes
- 1015 – 1045 Morning Coffee Break
- 1045 – 1200 Break-out Session 2
- 1200 – 1300 Lunch
- 1300 – 1400 Elective Session 2
- 1400 – 1515 Plenary 3: Biden's New Era for Regional Allies and Partners
- 1515 – 1600 Break-out Session 3
- 1600 – 1615 Bus pick-up from NDU and transport to *Canopy by Hilton* hotel
- 1730 – 1800 Bus pick-up from *Canopy by Hilton* hotel and transit to NDU IF Alumni Dinner
- 1800 – 2000 NDU IF Alumni Dinner – All participants and spouses
Location: *Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant*
Address: 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy, Mt Vernon, VA 22121
Uniform: Smart Casual (Men – Jacket, Open Collar | Women – Cocktail Attire)
- 2000 – 2030 Bus pick-up and transport back to *Canopy by Hilton* hotel and NDU





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THURSDAY, September 9

Uniform – Class B, Civilian – Business Casual (Jacket, Open collar)

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 0750 – 0800 | Bus pick-up at Canopy by Hilton hotel and transit to NDU |
| 0800 – 0830 | Coffee/Networking |
| 0830 – 0845 | Seminar Administrative Notes |
| 0845 – 1000 | Plenary 4: Irregular Warfare, Information, and Influence
Moderator: Dr. Gwyneth Sutherlin, CIC Faculty
Speakers: COL Michael J. Jackson*, Mr. David Nardaia*, Mr. Jeorg Eschweiler |
| 1000 – 1030 | Morning Coffee Break |
| 1030 – 1200 | Breakout Session 4 |
| 1200 – 1300 | Networking Lunch |
| 1300 – 1400 | Elective Session 3 |
| 1400 – 1600 | Participant Briefback Prep |





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FRIDAY, September 10

Uniform – Class B, Civilian – Business Casual (Jacket, Open collar)

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 0750 – 0800 | Bus pick-up at Canopy by Hilton hotel and transit to NDU |
| 0800 – 0830 | Coffee/Networking |
| 0830 – 0845 | Seminar Administrative Notes |
| 0845 – 1045 | Participant Briefbacks |
| 1045 – 1100 | Morning Coffee Break |
| 1100 – 1200 | Graduation/Closing Ceremony |
| 1200 – 1300 | Networking Lunch |
| 1300 – 1630 | Excursion to Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, Smithsonian Air and Space Museum (Cultural Activity – Spouses/Family Welcome)
Location: 14390 Air and Space Museum Pkwy, Chantilly, VA 20151 |





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Seminar Notes and Emergency Contacts

SEMINAR NOTES

Alumni Support Table:

Visit the NDU Alumni Support table for any questions throughout the week, to include:

- Updating alumni information
- MERLN Library Network accounts & refresher
- Google accounts tutorial and explanation
- Alumni survey & assessment
- Transcript requests

COVID-19 Mitigation:

If you feel sick at any point, contact Ms. Madeline Fedoris at 202-258-1548 and do not come to NDU. We will provide more instructions.

Masking: You are required to wear a mask at all time indoors, and socially distance (at least 1 meter) between others indoors and outdoors. When social distancing cannot be maintained outdoors, we would ask that you put up your mask. Please make sure you wear it such that it covers both your mouth and nose.

If you need a new mask, NDU will be able to provide you one.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Colonel (Ret) Jorge Ascunce: 202-294-1914

Ms. Faith Ssebikindu: 202-498-4681

Mr. Devin Hess: 202-368-0282

Ms. Cat Tappert: 202-386-3452

Mr. Blake Traeger: 202-412-2732

Ms. Madeline Fedoris: 202-258-1548





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Leadership



LIEUTENANT GENERAL MIKE PLEHN, USAF

President, National Defense University

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

Raised in an Army family, he graduated from Miami Southridge Senior High School in 1983 and attended the U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy with Military Distinction and a degree in

Astronautical Engineering in 1988. He is a Distinguished Graduate of Squadron Officer School as well as the College of Naval Command and Staff, where he received a Master's Degree with Highest Distinction in National Security and Strategic Studies. He also holds a Master of Airpower Art and Science degree from the School of Advanced Airpower Studies, as well as a Master of Aerospace Science degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

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

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

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

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





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AMBASSADOR JOHN HOOVER

Senior Vice President, National Defense University

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

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

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



DR. CYNTHIA WATSON

Interim Provost, National Defense University

Dr. Cynthia A. Watson, Dean of Faculty and Academic Programs as of March 2018, joined the Faculty in August 1992. Dr. Watson earned a MA from the London School of Economics, and a doctorate from the University of Notre Dame. Her undergraduate alma mater, University of Missouri-Kansas City, honored her as Alumna of the Year in 2011. Dr. Watson has served on the Governing Boards of a number of professional organizations and the Editorial Board of Third World Quarterly. She is a Member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, and the Society for Military History. Her first edition (2002) of U.S. National Security received CHOICE's designation as a Book of the Year. Other publications include and Nation-Building, U.S.

Military Service, Military Education, US National Security (2nd edition), Political Role of the Military (co-edited with Constantine Danopoulos), Interest Groups in National Security, and Geographic Combatant Commands.

FUNCTIONAL EXPERTISE: Curriculum Development; Economic/Political History; Strategic Foundations; Professional Military Education

REGIONAL EXPERTISE: Asia-Pacific, Latin America





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BRIGADIER GENERAL JOY L. CURRIERA, USA

Eisenhower School, Commandant

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

Prior to her assignment at the Eisenhower School, Brigadier General Curriera served as the Director of Operations for the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-9 (Installations), Headquarters Department of the Army, Pentagon. As the Director of Operations, Brigadier General Curriera was responsible for overseeing the development and coordination of program requirements, strategy, and policies pertaining to facilities standards, military construction, energy resilience, real property asset management and BRAC properties that support Army objectives and improve the quality of life for Soldiers, Civilians, and Families.

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

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

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

Brigadier General Curriera deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in May 2008 where she served as the CJ1 Personnel Strength Management Division chief for the Headquarters, Multi-National Corps – Iraq. Following this deployment, she assumed command of the 46th Adjutant General (Reception) Battalion, 194th Armored Brigade, Fort Knox, Kentucky. After battalion command, she served at the Army Human Resources Command at Fort Knox, as the Integration Branch chief, Field Services Division, The Adjutant General (TAG) Directorate; and then as chief





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of the Army's Records Management Division within the TAG. Following graduation at the National War College in 2013, she commanded the U.S. Army Garrison at Camp Zama, Japan. Before assuming her duties with the G-9 (formerly titled Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management), Brigadier General Curriera served as chief of the Colonels Management Office, Senior Leader Development, Office of the Chief of Staff of the Army.

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



DR. CASSANDRA C. LEWIS

*Acting Chancellor and Dean of Faculty and Academic Programs,
College of Information and Cyberspace*

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

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

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

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

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





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AMBASSADOR WILLIAM A. HEIDT

*Deputy Commandant and International Affairs Advisor,
Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy*

Ambassador William (Bill) Heidt assumed his duties as Deputy Commandant and International Affairs Advisor at the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy on November 4, 2019. A career economic officer, Ambassador Heidt served on the faculty of the Eisenhower School from January – November 2019, teaching classes on economics, industry analysis and American Studies.

Before joining the Eisenhower School, Bill served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia from 2015 to 2018. During Ambassador Heidt's tenure, he launched initiatives to expand trade and investment between the U.S. and Cambodia, strengthen respect for human rights and democracy, build Cambodia's nascent technology sector, and empower Cambodia's women entrepreneurs.

Prior to his service in Cambodia, Bill served as Chief of Staff to the Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment at the Department of State. From 2009-12, Bill served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, Poland, where he worked closely with the European Command to establish the first permanent U.S. military presence in Poland.

Ambassador Heidt's other overseas tours include assignments in Jakarta, Indonesia; Phnom Penh, Cambodia; and Poznan, Poland. He has also completed domestic economic policy assignments in Washington and in New York.

Ambassador Heidt is the recipient of numerous Superior Honor, Meritorious Honor and Senior Performance awards. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Foreign Service and International Politics from Pennsylvania State University and a Master's degree in International Relations from George Washington University. He is an honors graduate of the Department of State's Economic Training Course, and speaks Polish, Cambodian, Indonesian, and German.





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AMBASSADOR MATTHEW T. HARRINGTON

Director, International Student Management Office

Ambassador Matthew T. Harrington, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, has served as Director of the International Student Management Office at the National Defense University since July 2021. Previously, he spent three years as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs. Ambassador Harrington has spent much of his diplomatic career in Africa or working on African issues. He served as Ambassador to Lesotho from 2014-2017 and, before that, as Director of the Office of Analysis for Africa in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. He spent two tours as a Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassies in Namibia and Togo, and also worked as a Political Officer in Harare, Zimbabwe, as Sudan

Desk Officer in the Bureau of African Affairs, and as a Consular Officer in Accra, Ghana.

In addition, Ambassador Harrington completed assignments as Counselor for Political-Economic Affairs in Lisbon, Portugal, as a Watch Officer in the Department of State's Operations Center, and as a Political Officer in Brasilia, Brazil. He spent two years as Foreign Policy Advisor to the Commanding General of U.S. Army South in San Antonio, Texas.

Prior to joining the Foreign Service in 1991, Harrington served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Zouerate, Mauritania. He earned a B.A. in history from Washington and Lee University. He has a son and a daughter.



DR. R.E. BURNETT

Dean of Faculty and Academics, College of International Security Affairs

R.E. Burnett is Dean of Faculty and Academics and Professor of International Security Studies at National Defense University. He is an analyst and theoretician in the field of emerging technologies who has been a featured speaker and researcher to the National Intelligence Council's RDAWG science and technology committee. In 2018, Dr. Burnett was the plenary speaker on Artificial Intelligence to the NATO Center for Excellence at CYCON X in Tallinn, Estonia and in 2015, Dr. Burnett was invited by the Australian Department of Defence's Defence Science and Technology Organization (DSTO) to give the Keynote Lecture on Humans and Autonomous Systems to the Emerging Disruptive Technologies Assessment

Symposium at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. His recent publications include a chapter on UAVs and ubiquitous networks in *Command and Control: Tools, Systems, and New Dimensions*, Lexington/Rowan Books, 2015 and his work on the evolution of human-machine symbiosis for advanced situational awareness in intelligence and combat spaces was featured in the *IEEE Technology & Society Magazine* and *Homeland Security Review* in 2013. Dr. Burnett has conducted research and analysis for the National Intelligence Council, the Institute for Defense Analyses, the Joint Military Intelligence College, and the Homeland Security and National Defense Education Consortium. He has also been an active defense community expert in the UAV policy community through the IEEE society in the United States and Australia. Dr. Burnett has previously been professor at Virginia Military Institute (2005-2013), where he was also Director of the Science and National Security Program in Washington, DC. He was also Director of the VMI-National Defense University of Hungary International Exchange Seminar in Budapest, in which he has taught for the last seven summers. In 2003, at VMI, he held the Moody-Northen Endowed Chair in Economics and was also the 2007 & 2009 winner of the Hinman Award for Excellence in Research. From 2000 to 2005, Dr. Burnett was Associate Professor of Integrated Science & Technology at James Madison University, where he was awarded the Most Captivating Lecturer Award in 2005. From 1993 to 2000 he was Assistant Director and Assistant Professor of the Patterson School of Diplomacy & International Commerce.





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NDU Faculty and Subject Matter Experts



DR. STEPHEN R. BRENT

Professor, Eisenhower School

Steve Brent is a member of the faculty of the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, teaching economics and industry analysis. Prior to joining NDU in 2006, he was a career Foreign Service Officer in the U.S. Agency for International Development, serving in South Africa, Egypt, and Washington. Before joining USAID in 1987, Dr. Brent was a Legislative Assistant to Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum, Chair of the Africa Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He served six years in the Navy, including duty in Vietnam. He has a PhD in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, an MS in Operations Analysis from the Naval Postgraduate School, and a BA in Economics from Duke University.



DR. ZACHARY M. ABUZA

Professor, National War College

Dr. Zachary Abuza is a Professor at the National War College, in Washington, DC, where he focuses on Southeast Asian politics and security issues, including governance, insurgencies, democratization and human rights, and maritime security. He is the author of five books, including, *Forging Peace in Southeast Asia: Insurgencies, Peace Processes, and Reconciliation* (2016), *Conspiracy of Silence: The Insurgency in Southern Thailand* (2008), *Political Islam and Violence in Indonesia* (2006), *Militant Islam in Southeast Asia* (2003), and *Renovating Politics in Contemporary Vietnam* (2001). He authored the Southeast Asian chapter in the acclaimed study, *Leaving Terrorism Behind*, as well as the the National Endowment for Democracy's 2015 report on the media and civil society in Vietnam. In addition, he has authored four monographs on security issues in Southeast Asia. He is currently working on a project for the National Defense University's Project in Irregular Warfare, as well as a study on Thai counter-insurgency strategy. He has twice served as a Congressional witness. In 2004-05, he was a Senior Fellow at the US Institute of Peace and a recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship. He received his B.A. from Trinity College (1991), and M.A.L.D. (1994) and Ph.D. (1998) from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. He is a frequent commentator in the media and has traveled extensively throughout the region. He is an avid cyclist, sea kayaker, and back country skier. The father of twins, he's totally into character building. He's an accomplished cabinet maker.





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DR. GWYNETH SUTHERLIN

Assistant Professor, College of Information and Cyberspace

Dr. Sutherlin is a leading expert in socio-cultural analysis--the translation of qualitative research into discrete technology design for decision-making. As a faculty member in the College of Information Cyberspace at the National Defense University, she develops curriculum to advance the leadership for Globally Integrated Operations in the Information Environment and supports the Joint Staff as a subject matter expert. She is also a visiting scientist at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in the group for national security and artificial intelligence. Her teaching and research focus on information influence, emerging technology, and data analysis. Formerly the Director of Human Geography & Analytics Research at a commercial firm, she led teams in technology development, geospatial analysis, and social science research to support the Joint Staff, Global Combatant Commands, the Department of State, and other USG and partner nations' teams. She draws from over a decade of field experience focused on multilingual communications, risk evaluation, and cognitive pattern analysis in conflict environments. Her hands-on experience in designing intercultural conflict resolution and strategic communication programs in North Africa garnered UN recognition for innovation. Dr. Sutherlin speaks and publishes frequently on cultural cognitive variation in UX, social science driven ML, crowdsourcing for decision-making, and localized data analysis models supporting national security policy decisions. Her research appears in security training, textbooks on emerging technology for conflict analysis, and UN special reports. Dr. Sutherlin has a degree in political science from Indiana University and a PhD in peace and conflict studies from the University of Bradford. She has worked in eight languages.



DR. JIM Q. CHEN

Professor, College of Information and Cyberspace

Dr. Jim Q. Chen, Ph.D. is Professor of Cyber Studies and Director of DoD University Consortium for Cybersecurity Coordination Center (UC4) in the College of Information and Cyberspace (CIC) at the U.S. National Defense University (NDU). His expertise is in cyber strategy, cyber warfare, cyber deterrence, cybersecurity technology, artificial intelligence, and machine learning. Based on his research, he has authored and published numerous peer-reviewed papers, articles, and book chapters on these topics. Dr. Chen has also been teaching graduate courses on these topics for over 20 years.





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DR. MATT DEARING

Associate Professor, College of International Security Affairs

Dr. Matt Dearing is an Associate Professor of Regional and Analytical Studies at the College of International Security Affairs. For over two decades, he has focused on U.S. foreign policy, international security, and comparative political violence, with field research in Africa and Afghanistan. Dr. Dearing has worked as an advisor for Brigade Combat Teams and Provincial Reconstruction Teams in southern and eastern Afghanistan from 2008-13, with particular focus on political stability in Kabul, Kandahar and Ghazni. His research focuses on state and

non-state armed militias, paramilitary policing, and their role in capacity building in irregular warfare environments.

Dr. Dearing received a B.A. in International Political Economy from the University of California Berkeley; M.A. in Regional Security Studies at the Naval Postgraduate School; and Ph.D. in Security Studies at the Naval Postgraduate School. He is author of the book *Militia Order in Afghanistan: Guardians or Gangsters?* (Routledge 2021). His articles appeared in *Foreign Policy*, *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, *Stability Journal*, *Special Operations Journal*, *The National Interest*, and *War on the Rocks*.



DR. RAMEEZ ABBAS

Associate Professor, College of International Security Affairs

Rameez Abbas is an Associate Professor of Regional and Analytic Studies at the National Defense University, where she teaches courses on South Asian politics, statecraft, and the Muslim world. She has also been Lecturer and Program Coordinator at the MA in Global Security Studies at Johns Hopkins University; and Editor and Publications Manager at the Migration Policy Institute. Dr. Abbas earned a BA in government and politics from the

University of Maryland and a PhD in political science from Johns Hopkins, where her work focused on migration and citizenship politics in India and included extensive fieldwork in Mumbai and Kolkata. Her research has been supported by the East West Center in Washington, and she was also awarded a Fulbright grant. Her current research is about the political strategies of religious minorities in South Asia and the Middle East. Her work has appeared in several publications, including *Foreign Affairs* and the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.

Education:

Ph.D. in political science from The Johns Hopkins University.

B.A. in government and politics, and philosophy, from the University of Maryland

Areas of Expertise:

Refugees and migration

Citizenship and minority rights; including building resilience in divided societies

Great power and regional security politics in South Asia

Religion and politics in South Asia and the Middle East





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DR. THOMAS A. MARKS

Distinguished Professor, College of International Security Affairs

Dr. Thomas A. Marks assumed his present rank and position on 1 July 2016 after 12 years as the founding Chair of the War and Conflict Studies (WACS) Department, as well as Professor of Terrorism, positions he was asked to occupy at CISA following 9-11 as a consequence of his extensive academic and field experience concerning irregular warfare.

A former US government officer who is a member of the editorial board of *Small Wars and Insurgencies* (London), he previously served as the Oppenheimer Chair of Warfighting Strategy at the Marine Corps University (Quantico) and as a longtime Adjunct Professor at both the Air Force Special Operations School (AFSOS) and the intelligence community's Sherman Kent School. In 2006, he was named awarded AFSOS Educator of the Year; in 2007, he received the Royal Military Institute of Manitoba "Fellow" Award. A graduate of the United States Military Academy, Dr. Marks completed his doctoral work in his home state of Hawaii, where for 14 years he was Chair and Professor of Social Science at Academy of the Pacific, a private high school, and – for more than two decades – a highly successful cross country and track coach.

He has authored hundreds of publications. His most recent books, both edited volumes, are the *People's War: Variants and Responses* (2018) and *Perspectives on the American Way of War: The U.S. Experience in Irregular Combat* (2019). He was awarded the Military Medal "Faith in the Cause" on 28 July 2014 by the Colombian Army for contributions to the country's counterinsurgency effort, and in 2016 received a MINERVA grant to pursue fieldwork on the topic of female combatant motivation in the Nepali Maoist insurgency. Appropriate publications have followed. Most recently, his co-authored article (with CISA's Dr. David Ucko), "Violence in Context: Mapping the Strategies and Operational Art of Irregular Warfare," *Contemporary Security Policy* (February 2018), received the Bernard Brodie Prize 2019 for the best 2018 article. It may be added in passing that during the heyday of *Soldier of Fortune*, Marks was for a decade the magazine's Chief Foreign Correspondent.



COLONEL ADAM OLER

Assistant Professor, National War College

Colonel Adam Oler is currently assigned to the Department of Security Studies at the National War College. He joined the faculty in July, 2015 after serving as the Air Combat Command Deputy Staff Judge Advocate. Colonel Oler has over 22 years' experience as a judge advocate, serving as a prosecutor, defense counsel, appellate government counsel, military judge, and operations law attorney. His overseas and operational background includes two tours in the

Republic of Korea, and assignments as the Staff Judge Advocate at the Office of Military Cooperation - Kuwait, and Legal Advisor to the Commander, U.S. Air Forces Central Command. He spent two years as the Assistant Executive to the Judge Advocate General, and served in the Office of the Air Force Inspector General. Colonel Oler holds a BA in History from the New College of Florida, and a JD from Stetson University College of Law, where he was a member of the *Stetson Law Review*. He is a Distinguished Graduate of the National War College, where he earned an MS in National Security Strategy.





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DR. DAVID H. UCKO

Professor, College of International Security Affairs

Dr. David H. Ucko, is professor of international security studies at the College of International Security Affairs (CISA), National Defense University. He serves as Chair of the War and Conflict Studies Department and as director of the Regional Defense Fellowship Program (RDFP). In this capacity, he oversees the delivery of the RDFP curriculum and the international outreach efforts to build a network of practitioners engaged with counter-terrorism, counterinsurgency, and irregular warfare.

Dr. Ucko's research areas include political violence, irregular warfare, counterinsurgency, and war-to-peace transitions. He is the author of *The Insurgent's Dilemma: A Struggle to Prevail* (Hurst 2022) and of four other books on irregular warfare, counterinsurgency and political reintegration. He has also published on the United Nations, NATO, countering violent extremism, and counterinsurgency in a range of peer-reviewed journals.



DR. SONYA FINLEY

Professor, National War College

Dr. Sonya Finley is a professor of strategy at the National War College and adjunct assistant professor within the Georgetown University Security Studies Program. She also has designed courses and taught at the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, National Defense University and the Department of Social Sciences at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Sonya retired as a U.S. Army Colonel after a 26-year career with key assignments as a strategist/strategic advisor, planner, and speechwriter for senior uniformed

leaders in the Republic of Korea, Iraq, and Washington D.C., as well as the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy (Plans). She is a former East-West Center fellow and former term member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She holds a BA from Emory University, an MPA from Cornell University, a Certificate in Strategic Thinking and Management for Competitive Advantage from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, and a PhD from Virginia Tech.



DR. MARIYA OMELICHEVA

Professor, National War College

Dr. Mariya Y. Omelicheva is a Professor of Strategy at National War College. She holds PhD (2007) in Political Science from Purdue University and JD in International Law (2000) from Moscow National Law Academy. Dr. Omelicheva's research and teaching interests include international and Eurasian security, counterterrorism and human rights, democracy promotion in the post-Soviet territory, Russia's foreign and security policy, gender and security, and

crime-terror nexus in Eurasia. She is the author of three books – *Webs of Corruption: Trafficking-Terrorism Nexus in Central Asia* (Columbia University Press, 2019, with Lawrence Markowitz), *Democracy in Central Asia: Competing Perspectives and Alternate Strategies* (University Press of Kentucky 2015) and *Counterterrorism Policies in Central Asia* (Routledge 2011) – and over a hundred of peer-reviewed articles.





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Speakers and Subject Matter Experts



MR. CHRIS MILLIGAN, USAID

Graduate, National War College 2007

Chris Milligan is the Counselor to the Agency. A member of the Senior Foreign Service, he has a deep wealth of development experience, having led and contributed to high-priority initiatives throughout his USAID career.

Mr. Milligan previously served as the Acting Mission Director of USAID/Madagascar. From 2012–2016, as USAID’s first Mission Director to Burma in 24 years, he integrated assistance with diplomatic efforts to advance Burma’s historic reforms. Mr. Milligan directed institutional reforms that revamped State and USAID strategic processes and improved the

effectiveness of foreign assistance while serving as the Senior Development Advisor for the first Quadrennial Diplomatic and Development Review (QDDR), and the Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator in USAID’s Bureau of Policy, Planning, and Learning. Mr. Milligan deployed to Haiti as the U.S. Response Coordinator overseeing \$1 billion in U.S. relief efforts following the January 2010 earthquake. He has been posted to overseas missions in Indonesia, Zimbabwe, and Ecuador, and served as Deputy Mission Director in Iraq. Mr. Milligan also has served as the Regional Director for the Near East in the Office of the Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance (F) in the State Department, and as the Acting Administrator for USAID’s Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs.

Mr. Milligan joined USAID as a Presidential Management Fellow in 1990. Mr. Milligan has a Bachelor’s degree from Georgetown’s School of Foreign Service, a Master’s degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and is a distinguished graduate of the National War College.

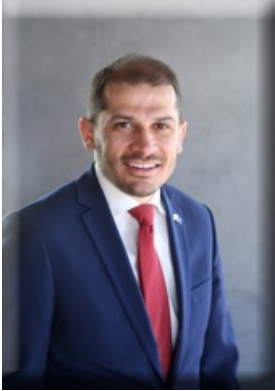




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Speakers and Subject Matter Experts



MR. DAVID NARDAIA, DEPUTY HEAD OF MISSION AT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO NATO

Graduate, College of International Security Affairs 2011

David Nardaia has 19 years of professional experience in diplomacy and international security affairs. Since November 2018, David Nardaia has worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and served as the Director of the NATO Integration Department till September 2020. In June 2020 President of Georgia conferred him the diplomatic rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. In September 2020 he was appointed as a Deputy Head of Mission at Mission of Georgia to NATO (NATO HQ, Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium). Prior to joining MFA, Mr. Nardaia served at the Ministry of Defense of Georgia for more than 15 years.

In 2002-2015, David Nardaia held different positions at the Ministry of Defence of Georgia, including the Director of Defence Policy and Planning Department, Director of the International Relations and Euro-Atlantic Integration Department, Rector of the National Defence Academy, and Deputy Defence Minister. In 2015-2018, he served as a Defence Advisor – Civilian Representative of the Ministry of Defence of Georgia at the Mission of Georgia to NATO (NATO HQ, Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium).

David Nardaia holds Bachelor's (2002) and Master's (2004) Degrees in History of Diplomacy and International Relations from the Tbilisi State University and Master's Degree in International Security Affairs from the National Defense University, USA (2011). He pursues Doctoral Degree in History at Tbilisi State University. In 2005-2006, he was a Fellow of the International Relations and National Security Program at the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (GFSIS). In 2006, he was a participant of the Black Sea Security Program at John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, USA. In autumn 2007, he attended International Staff Officers Orientation Course at Netherlands Defense College. In autumn 2013, he was a fellow at the Rumsfeld Fellowship Program.

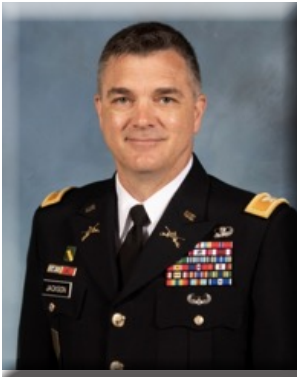




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COLONEL MICHAEL J. JACKSON

Graduate, College of International Security Affairs 2011

Colonel Michael J. Jackson is a native of Frankfort, Indiana. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in Armor through the ROTC program at The Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from The Ohio University in Communications and Business, a Master of Science from Naval Postgraduate in Joint Information Operations, and a Military Master of Arts and Science from National Defense University, College of International Security Affairs, in Strategic Security Studies.

Colonel Jackson is currently the J5, Director for Plans, Policy, and Partnerships and the Army Cyber Institute Liaison at the Cyber National Mission Force, Fort Meade, Maryland. Prior to his current assignment, he served as the Senior Army Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, New York City.

His previous assignments include Platoon Leader, 1st Battalion, 72nd Armor, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Casey Korea; Executive Officer, Headquarters and Bravo Troop, 5th Squadron 15th Cavalry, 1st Armor Training Brigade, Fort Knox, Kentucky; Battalion S3/S2, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, 1st Armor Training Brigade, Fort Knox Kentucky; Assistant Brigade S3, 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Vilseck, Germany; Commander, Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Vilseck, Germany; Commander, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Vilseck, Germany; Chief Information Operations and Deputy Public Affairs Officer, Joint Headquarters, NATO, Lisbon, Portugal; Brigade S7, 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; Information Operations Officer, Headquarters III Corps, Fort Hood, Texas; Division, Assistant Chief of Staff, G7, 1st Armored Division, Fort Bliss, Texas; J39 Division Chief for Information Operations, Special Operations Command Europe; J39 Division Chief for Information Operations and Special Activities at United States European Command.

Colonel Jackson's military education includes the Armor Officer Basic and Advance Courses, Intermediate Level Education (Common Core), Public Affairs Qualification Course, Information Operations Qualification Course, The Naval Post Graduate School Defense Analysis Department, and National Defense University College of International Security Affairs.

His deployments include Kosovo Force (KFOR); International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), NATO; Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF); Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF); Operation New Dawn (OND); US Central Command Forward, Jordan (CF-J).

Awards and decorations include: Defense Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation medal with two oak leaf clusters, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Unit Citation with oak leaf cluster, National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, NATO Medal, Air Assault and Parachutists Badges. He is a recipient of Chief of the General Staff of Ukraine Armed Forces Award for Merit, the Armor Association Order of Saint George, Infantry Association Order of Saint Maurice and Information Professionals Association Order of Hermes.

Colonel Jackson is married to Bridget Brown-Jackson of Scottsdale, Arizona.





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MR. JOERG ESCHWEILER

Head of Cybersecurity & Intelligence, Civil & National Security Germany, Atos Information Technology

Mr. Joerg Eschweiler currently serves as head of intelligence & cybersecurity for Public Sector Defense & Intelligence business with Atos for Germany and solution director for intelligence globally, supporting EU and NATO besides local customers. Before he held leading positions with Airbus Defense & Space and IBM in context of cyber, intelligence and security. Started his career in industry succeeding an active military career he sustainably interconnects industry and military/government, fostering innovation, transformation and cross-silo thinking on transnational level. During his last governmental service period with German MoD senior leadership staff (between Airbus DS and Atos) he leads design, planning and incubation of strategic Cyber innovation approaches as part of the overall Cyber strategy and their implementation. This involved subject matter expertise, national and international relations as well as cooperation across the silos of government, industry, academia, and vendors.

He co-founded several non-profit organizations to tackle cyber security and intelligence challenges incl. actionability on a broader level, supports policy building and solution delivery as well as academia. Supporting Connected Forces Initiative and Federated Mission Networking and capability development since the early days this is one of his long-term engagements including aspects of CIMIC as well as cyber and information as domain.

In 2018, he became Deputy Chairman of the Digital Convergence committee with German Security and Defence Industry Association (BDSV e.V.) which he co-founded, as well as being part of the exec committee of the strategic innovation dialogue with German MoD. 2017 he was elected as chair of the OASIS Cyber Standards User Council which he co-founded, serves as Vice Chair of Council at German IT Security Coordination Office (KITS) since 2014 and supports EU on Cybersecurity and Data Protection strategy and standardization as accredited German Subject Matter Expert since 2013.

Latest publications:

<https://www.afcea.org/content/communications-must-carry>

<https://www.afcea.org/content/mission-networks-require-service-management>





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COLONEL (RET) JORGE ASCUNCE, U.S. MARINE CORPS

Deputy Director, International Student Management Office

Jorge Ascunce is the Deputy Director of the International Student Management Office at the National Defense University. Previously, he deployed to Afghanistan where he served as the Strategic Logistics Planning and Policy Analyst for the Sustainment Enterprise Advisory Group, ISAF, developing long range sustainment plans for the Afghan forces. He is a career United States Marine Corps officer. He began his time in the Marines as an infantryman, then transitioned into logistics where he spent the remainder of his career. He served in the highest staff levels as the Executive Officer, Logistics Directorate, the Joint Staff, commanded one of the Corps' largest brigade-level training detachments, and

served in combat during Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. He retired from the USMC in spring 2013. He assumed his current duties in June 2014 after returning from Afghanistan.



FAITH SSEBIKINDU

*Director, Outreach and Continuing Engagement,
College of International Security Affairs*

Ms. Faith Ssebikindu joined the College of International Security Affairs (CISA) at National Defense University as Director of Continuing Engagement in November 2016. She comes to CISA from Georgetown University, where she spent the last six years working closely with alumni in an effort to maximize their engagement and support. A career relationship builder, Ms. Ssebikindu has served as the Director of Development for Washington Christian Academy, Donor Services Coordinator for Georgetown University Hospital, and Outreach Coordinator for University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Ms.

Ssebikindu received a Bachelors in Microbiology from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, a Master of Public Health from the University of Pittsburgh, and a graduate certificate in Non-profit Management from Georgetown University.



DEVIN HESS

Alumni Coordinator, International Student Management Office

Devin Hess has been with the National Defense University since January 2017 and serves as the Alumni Coordinator in the International Student Management Office. Devin holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wisconsin - Madison where he double-majored in Russian Language and Civilization and History and minored in African Studies. During his studies, he lived in Russia and Kazakhstan where he worked on improving his command of the Russian language.





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NDU Alumni Team



CATHERINE TAPPERT

DVOT Program Manager, International Student Management Office

Ms. Catherine Tappert is currently serving as the Distinguished Visitor Orientation Tour (DVOT) Program Manager and a member of the Alumni, Outreach, and Engagement Team at the International Student Management Office at National Defense University. She is a recent graduate of the College of International Security Affairs (Class of 2021) and a 2015-2016 Boren recipient and graduate of the National Security Education Program Arabic Flagship, through which she studied for one year in Meknes, Morocco and achieved professional proficiency in Modern Standard Arabic. Ms. Tappert received a Bachelors in Government and Politics and a Bachelors in Arabic Studies from the University of Maryland, College Park.



MADELINE FEDORIS

Program Coordinator, International Student Management Office

Mrs. Madeline Fedoris is currently the Program Coordinator for the International Student Management Office (ISMO) at the Norfolk Campus of the National Defense University. She has been at ISMO since June 2018. Madeline is a 2017-2018 Boren Scholar recipient through which she studied Arabic Translation Studies in Sharjah, UAE, at the American University of Sharjah. Madeline graduated from the University of Kansas in 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts in Global and International Studies and minors in Spanish and Middle East Studies.



BLAKE TRAEGER

Program Support Specialist, International Student Management Office

Mr. Blake Traeger has been with the National Defense University since August, 2017 and currently serves as a Program Support Specialist on the Alumni Outreach Team at the International Student Management Office. He is a 2015 Boren Scholarship recipient and a graduate of the National Security Education Program's Portuguese Flagship, through which he studied for one year in Brazil and achieved professional proficiency in Portuguese. Mr. Traeger earned a Bachelors in International Affairs and a Bachelors in Economics at the University of Georgia.



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The Regional Defense Fellowship Program (RDFP)



The Regional Defense Fellowship Program (RDFP) has funded, sponsored, and otherwise enabled this event. RDFP was established to meet an emerging and urgent defense requirement to build partnerships through targeted, non-lethal, combating terrorism (CbT) education and training. The RDFP directly supports DOD and national goals by providing CbT education and training for mid/senior-level foreign military officers, ministry of defense civilians, and security officials whose current or future responsibilities involve CbT.

The goals of RDFP are: 1) build and strengthen a global network of CbT experts and practitioners at the operational and strategic levels; 2) build and reinforce the CbT capabilities of partner nations through operational and strategic-level education; 3) contribute to the efforts to counter the ideological support to terrorism; and 4) provide DoD with a flexible and proactive program that can respond to emerging CbT requirements and that is capable of filling identified gaps/seams in partnership strategies. RDFP education is a mixture of existing, traditional programs and activities designed to strengthen individual, country, and regional CbT capabilities and capacities according to the priorities of the Secretary of Defense. Education and training may be provided at U.S. military educational institutions, regional centers, conferences, seminars, mobile education and training locations, or other training programs. A prerequisite for RDFP funding for an educational or training activity is that the event will provide unique CbT education or training as identified by the respective Geographic Combatant Command and approved by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict (ASD(SOL/LIC)).

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