

5th Annual **USSPACECOM LEGAL CONFERENCE**

Enabling the Decisive Advantage

25 - 27 February 2025

United States Air Force Academy, Colorado



UNITED STATES
AIR FORCE ACADEMY

LAW, TECHNOLOGY, AND WARFARE RESEARCH CELL





25 February 2025 (Day 1) **In Order of Appearance:**

Air Commodore Darren Whiteley, RAF **Deputy Director of Policy and Plans, United States Space Command**

Air Commodore Darren Whiteley joined the RAF in Feb 98, commencing Air Battlespace Manager training in Oct 98 and completing his first tour at RAF Buchan. From here, he was selected for the ABM STANEVAL and a second C2 tour at RAF Buchan followed before a posting to No 1 Air Control Centre in Dec 04. During his time on the Unit, 1ACC completed a NATO OPEVAL and he deployed as the initial Unit commander on Op HERRICK (Afghanistan).

Upon return from Afghanistan, Whiteley was promoted to squadron leader (O4) and took up the post of SO2 C2 and Battlespace on the UK Joint Force Air Component Headquarters. This tour saw him undertake deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Qatar where his work as the lead NATO Planner in the US Strategy Division drew recognition from the CENTCOM CFACC. He also undertook ABM and C2 duties with UK Special Forces during this period. In Aug 09 he was posted to 56(R) Sqn as the Executive Officer of the Air Warfare Centre's ISR Test and Evaluation Squadron and supported several ISR initiatives. In Apr 11 he was deployed at very short notice to Op ELLAMY where he undertook DCOS Ops, C2 and ISR duties in the fledgling UK Air HQ as well as assuming UK Engagement Authority ('Red Card Holder') duties. Upon his return he undertook Executive Officer duties for the inaugural 2* Chief of Staff Capability at HQ Air Command.

Upon promotion to wing commander (O5) he remained with the HQ Air Capability area as the Deputy Head and Programme Manager for the high-profile Financial Military Capability Transformation Programme. In this role he was responsible for the design and implementation of the new 2* Air Finance & Military Capability organisation. He successfully completed ACSC 18 before being selected for policy duties in the NATO and European Policy directorate in the Ministry of Defence. In this role he was responsible for providing politically aware military advice to Chief of Defence Staff, the Prime Minister and other government ministers to aid the formulation of UK policy on NATO and EU issues. He was appointed Station Commander RAF Fylingdales in Aug 2016 and oversaw the Unit increase its integration with US assets and address long standing sustainment and interference issues. He assumed the role of Chief of Staff Space and Battlespace Management Force in June 2018 and oversaw the movement of the Force into the RAF's Multi-Domain Command and Control Group (Number 11 Group). He was promoted to group captain (O6) in Sep 19 and as Deputy Director Combined Space Operations Center, drove enhanced allied integration. He completed the UK Higher Command and Staff Course (UK CAPSTONE) in 2022 and took up the role of Deputy Director Global Partnerships in HQ USSF in Apr 2022 where he was lead for USSF's Partner to Win initiative. He was promoted to Air Commodore (O7) in Sep 2023 and appointed Deputy J5 USSPACECOM.





Major T.J. O'Malley, USA **Space Operations Planner, United States Space Command**

Major Thomas (TJ) O'Malley is a native of South Boston, Massachusetts. He completed his undergraduate studies at Norwich University, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice. He entered active duty in May 2010 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Military Police Corps in October 2010. He also holds a Master of Arts degree in Business and Organizational Security Management from Webster University. His military education includes Basic Combat Training, Officer Candidate School, Military Police Basic Officer Leader's Course, Military Police Captain's Career Course, Inter-service Individual Non-Lethal Weapons Instructor Course, Anti-Terrorism Officer Basic Course, Command and General Staff Officer Course and the Space Operations Officer Qualification Course. Major O'Malley's assignments include Platoon Leader, Military Police Platoon, HHC, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, COS Kalsu, Iraq; Executive Officer, Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division; Law Enforcement Operations Officer, 178th Military Police Detachment, 89th Military Police Brigade; Operations Officer, 545th Military Police Detachment, 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, United States Army Alaska; Detachment Commander, 545th Military Police Detachment, 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, United States Army Alaska; Company Commander, U.S. Army Recruiting Company North Bay, Northern California Recruiting Battalion, Santa Rosa, CA; Provost Marshal Operations Officer, Protection Planner, and Future Operations Planner, United States Army Pacific. Major O'Malley currently serves as a Space Operations Planner, J59 Contingency Plans Branch, United States Space Command.





Lieutenant Colonel Robert A. Silvas II, FA 52 (Nuclear and CWMD), USA

United States Space Command

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Silvas is currently assigned to the Plans, Policy, and Strategy Directorate (J5) at United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) at Peterson Space Force Base (SFB) in Colorado Springs, Colorado. LTC Silvas commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry from the Officer Candidate School at Ft. Moore (formerly Benning) in 2006. He serves as a Joint Plans Officer in the China Branch of the Plans Division, J5, USSPACECOM. He also previously served as the Doctrine Branch Chief in the Doctrine and Policy Division, J5, USSPACECOM. He operationally deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom V (2007-2008- The Surge) and VII (2009-2010) in Mosul; as well

as Operation Enduring Freedom XII-XIII (2012-2013) in Zharay District, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. LTC Silvas is married to Libby. They are parents to Quinn (5yrs), Saoirse (19mos), and Battle, their yellow labrador.

Major Sandra Ahinga, USA

Chief of Operations Law, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, United States Space Command

Major Sandra L. Ahinga is the Chief of Operations Law at U.S. Space Command. Prior to her arrival she earned an LL.M. in National Security Law with a Space Law focus from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC. While at Georgetown, Major Ahinga served as a peer reviewer for the Journal on National Security Law and Policy; the world's only peer reviewed journal devoted to the subject matter. MAJ Ahinga also pioneered a Space Law-specific externship in the Office of Legal Policy at the U.S. Department of Justice. Her previous assignments include: Chief, Administrative and Civil Law, USSPACECOM, Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colorado; Chief, National Security Law, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Fort Liberty, North Carolina; Government Appellate Counsel, United States Army Legal Services Agency, Fort Belvoir, VA; Chief of Justice, United States Forces – Afghanistan, Bagram Airbase, Afghanistan; Operational and Administrative Law Attorney, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Cavazos, Texas; Trial Counsel, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Cavazos, Texas; Trial Counsel, 21st Theater Sustainment Command – Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers - Europe, Mons, Belgium; Administrative Law Attorney, 21st Theater Sustainment Command – Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers - Europe, Mons, Belgium; and Chief, Client Services, 21st Theater Sustainment Command – Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers - Europe, Mons, Belgium. MAJ Ahinga has deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel and to Korea as part of the Army's Regionally Aligned Force. MAJ Ahinga is a graduate of the University of California, San Diego (BA, Sociology), the University of San Diego School of Law (JD), the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Legal Center and School (LL.M., Military Law); and Georgetown University Law Center (LL.M. w/ Distinction, National Security Law).





Moderator: Lieutenant Commander Blair Kuplic, USN Chief of National Security Law, United States Space Command

LCDR Blair Kuplic currently serves as Chief of National Security Law at United States Space Command in Colorado Springs, CO. LCDR Kuplic grew up in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. She holds a Master of Laws from Harvard Law School, a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, a Juris Doctor from the University of North Carolina School of Law, and Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and German with a minor in French from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. LCDR Kuplic previously served as Deputy of Operational Law at United States Pacific Fleet in Honolulu, HI. Prior to that, she served as Installation Judge Advocate at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story in Virginia Beach, VA, and at Region Legal Service Office Southeast and Defense Service Office Southeast in Mayport, FL.



Colonel Robert (“Bobby”) Hall, USAF Staff Judge Advocate, United States Space Command



Colonel Robert “Bobby” Hall is the Staff Judge Advocate for United States Space Command, the Unified Combatant Command responsible for conducting operations in, from, and to space to deter conflict, and if necessary, defeat aggression, deliver space combat power for the Joint/Combined force, and defend U.S. vital interests with allies and partners.

Originally from St. Petersburg, Florida, Colonel Hall worked in private industry as an electrical engineer prior to attending law school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the North Carolina Journal of International Law and Commercial Regulation. Colonel Hall became a commissioned officer by direct appointment after his admission to the North Carolina Bar in 1997. After entering the Air Force, he served as trial and defense counsel, as well as chief of military justice at the wing and numbered air force levels. Colonel Hall also deployed as a joint task force deputy staff judge advocate and served in the air and space operations centers of two geographic combatant commands. Additionally, he served staff judge advocate tours at the major command, numbered air force, wing, and group levels in the U.S., Europe, and Middle East. Prior to his current position, Colonel Hall was the Staff Judge Advocate for Air Force Global Strike Command, advising the major command responsible for U.S. Air Force bomber, intercontinental ballistic missile, and nuclear command, control, and communications forces.



Brigadier General Brian Sidari, USSF **Director of Intelligence, United States Space Command**

Brig Gen Sidari is the Director of Intelligence, United States Space Command, Schriever Space Force Base, Colorado. In this capacity, he serves as the senior intelligence advisor to the Commander of USSPACECOM and directs all intelligence operations. Brig. Gen. Sidari commissioned in 1995 from the Kent State University's Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He has held numerous operational and staff tours, featuring joint and combined service in three theaters. Prior to this assignment, he served as the Director of Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance at Headquarters, Space Operations Command, Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado. He has served in or deployed to U.S. European Command, U.S. Central Command, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, and the Joint Staff.



Mr. Mike Sinclair **Associate Deputy General Counsel (Intelligence & Security), Office of General Counsel, United States Department of Defense**

Mike Sinclair serves at the Office of Secretary Defense (OSD) Office of General Counsel (OGC) (Intelligence & Security) where he is lead counsel for Sensitive Space activities, GEOINT and MASINT, the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO), and Congressional activities pertaining to the Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence & Security). Prior to his position at OSD OGC, Mike worked at the Department of the Air Force (DAF), Office of General Counsel (OGC), Intelligence, International and Military Affairs division (SAF/GCI) where he served as Associate General Counsel (aviation & space). He is a retired Coast Guard judge advocate (O-6) with over 25 years of mixed legal and operational tours. His military assignments include details at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/OGC (Operations and Enforcement Law Division) and the National Security Council legal office, as the Coast Guard's legislative counsel at Coast Guard Congressional Affairs, as Chief of the Coast Guard's office of General Law, and in command afloat both in the Arabian Gulf and here in the United States. While at the Coast Guard he completed a fellowship at the Brookings Institution where he wrote extensively about space governance and space security and a Master of Laws (national security) from the Georgetown University Law Center. Off-duty, he serves in a leadership position on the editorial board at Dauntless space; is a non-resident senior fellow for space security at the Atlantic Council's Scowcroft Center for National Security; and teaches International Law in Domestic Courts, Upper Level Writing, and National Security Law as an adjunct professor at the George Washington University School of Law. He enjoys sci-fi pop culture, downhill skiing, and spending time with his family.

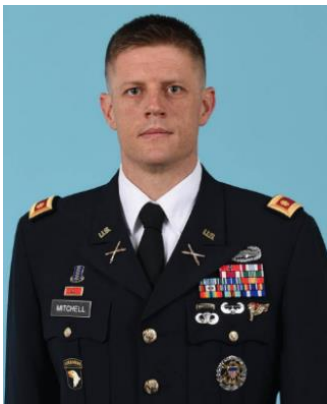


Captain Chris Swain, USN **Deputy Legal Counsel, Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff**

Captain Chris Swain, JAG Corps, US Navy, serves as Deputy Legal Counsel for Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., providing primary legal support to the Deputy Director for Global Operations in the Joint Staff J3 directorate. Captain Swain is a native of Henrietta, NY. Captain Swain holds a Bachelor of Arts from the State University of New York at Geneseo, a Juris Doctor from Washington & Lee School of Law, a Master of Arts degree from the Naval War College, and an LLM from Georgetown University Law Center. He is admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Captain Swain's previous shore tours include Trial Counsel and Staff Judge Advocate at Region Legal Service Office, Southeast; Instructor and Department Head at Naval Justice School; Admiralty Attorney at OJAG Code 11 (Admiralty and Maritime Law) and assistant to the Assistant Judge Advocate General (AJAG) for Civil Law, and JAG Corps LCDR Detailer. Captain Swain's operational and at-sea assignments include Legal Advisor with Task Force 134 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; Discipline Officer on board USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65); Staff Judge Advocate to Commander, Task Force FIVE ONE in Bahrain; Chief of Operational Law at U.S. Forces Korea, and Chief of National Security and Intelligence Law at U.S. Cyber Command.



Lieutenant Colonel Andrew “Drew” Mitchell, USA **J3 Action Group, J3, United States Space Command**



LTC Mitchell is the Chief of USSPACECOM J3’s Action Group and the acting Director of the Joint Fires Element. LTC Mitchell has served in multiple positions in USSPACECOM to include Joint Targeting Branch Chief and Executive Officer to the J3. His most recent assignment prior to USSPACECOM was the Executive Officer for the 4th Infantry Division Artillery. Previously, LTC Mitchell was in the Army’s Bradley Fellowship program and served as a Strategic Planner in the War Plans Division, HQ-Department of the Army, and as a Joint Action Officer for the Joint Staff, J35 (DDRO). LTC Mitchell has three combat deployments and holds a Master of Public Policy Management (PPM) from Georgetown University. LTC Mitchell is married to the former Jessica Lepson of Red Lion, PA and together they have two children, Juliet and Chip.



Lieutenant Colonel Paul Rogers, USSF **Chief, Operations and Integration Branch, United States Space** **Command**

Lt Col Paul Rogers is currently assigned as the Operations and Integration Branch Chief at United States Space Command where he directs and monitors current operations across the components of the United States' newest Combatant Command. He graduated from ROTC at the University of Illinois in 2006. His first assignment was as a missileer at Minot AFB, ND. He then moved to the 2nd Space Operations Squadron and 50th Operations Group. Lt Col Rogers next served at the Advanced Space Operation School where he ran the Navigation Operations Advanced Course. He then led vault and NAVWAR operations at the Combined Space Operations Center. He was then selected to serve as the Operations Officer for the NRO Cyber Operations Squadron followed by the NRO Network Operations Squadron. Both positions also supported the NRO Operations Center day-to-day ops. Following his tour at the NRO, he served as the USSF Headquarters Chief of Wargaming Integration. He was then selected to be the Director of Staff for Space Delta 2. Lt Col Rogers deployed to Al Udeid AB, Qatar from March to September 2023 as the United States Space Forces – Central Director of Operations.



Colonel Sarah Mountin, USAF **Staff Judge Advocate, United States Space Forces – Space**

Colonel Sarah M. Mountin is dual-hatted as the Staff Judge Advocate for U.S. Space Forces - Space (S4S) and Legal Advisor (LEGAD) for the Combined Joint Force Space Component Commander (C/JFSCC), Vandenberg Space Force Base, California. S4S, the U.S. Space Force Component Field Command and Service Component to United States Space Command (USSPACECOM), plans, integrates, conducts, and assesses global space operations to protect, defend and deliver combat relevant space effects, in from, and to space, for Combatant Commanders, Coalition partners, the Joint Force, and the Nation. As the C/JFSCC, S4S/CC directs world-wide day-to-day combined and joint space operations, such as space domain awareness, offensive and defensive space operations, spacecraft operations, satellite communication, strategic missile warning, nuclear detonation detection, environmental monitoring, military intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), navigation warfare, positioning, navigation and timing (PNT), human spaceflight support, and command and control, under Operation Olympic Defender on behalf of USSPACECOM. These operations are conducted in close coordination with the Intelligence Community, Coalition operations centers, and partner nations by multi-national forces and/or one of 75+ S4S subordinate units. These missions are controlled by one of S4S's five distinct and geographically dispersed operations centers: the Combined Space Operations Center (CSpOC) at Vandenberg Space Force Base, California; the Missile Warning Center (MWC) at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Colorado; the Joint Overhead Persistent Infrared Planning Center (JOPC) at Buckley Garrison, Colorado; the Joint Navigation Warfare Center (JNWC) located at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico; and the National Space Defense Center (NSDC) at Schriever Space Force Base, Colorado. The S4S legal office provides timely, relevant, 24/7 specialized, mission-focused legal support to the S4S Staff, subordinate units and operations centers.



Captain Erin Quay, USN

Fleet Judge Advocate, United States Fleet Cyber Command, United States Navy Space Command

Born in Allentown, Pennsylvania, Captain Quay attended Gettysburg College where she graduated summa cum laude with a degree in Political Science and English. After college, Captain Quay worked as a legislative aide for Senator Arlen Specter in Washington, DC, focusing on health care and family issues. In 2004, she graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law and was awarded the Robert F. Kennedy Award for Public Service. She received her LL.M. from Georgetown University

Law Center in 2015. Captain Quay was commissioned into the Navy in November 2003 and attended Officer Indoctrination School in August 2004. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar and is currently serving as the Fleet Judge Advocate, U.S. Fleet Cyber Command/Navy Space/U.S. TENTH Fleet. Captain Quay's previous assignments include Executive Officer, Region Legal Service Office Mid-Atlantic; Deputy Fleet Judge Advocate, U.S. Pacific Fleet; Deputy Fleet Environmental Counsel, U.S. Fleet Forces Command; Legislative Aide, Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs; Flag Aide for the Deputy Judge Advocate General; Staff Judge Advocate, Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; trial counsel, Region Legal Service Office Hawaii; and defense counsel, Naval Legal Service Office Southwest. In February 2006, Captain Quay deployed with the 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD) to Camp Al Taqaddum, Iraq. During the deployment, Captain Quay earned the Fleet Marine Force Warfare Officer Designation.

Lieutenant Colonel Eric J. Skoczenski, USMC

Chief of National Security Law, U.S. European Command

Lieutenant Colonel Skoczenski was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in August 2007. After completing the Basic Lawyer Course at the Naval Justice School, Newport Rhode Island, 1st Lieutenant Skoczenski reported to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina in 2008, where he served as a Trial Counsel. In January 2010, Captain Skoczenski received orders to 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines (1/2), where he served as the Battalion Judge Advocate and acting Battalion Executive Officer for that unit's Operation Enduring Freedom deployment to Musa Qa'leh District, Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Upon his return to Camp Lejeune from Afghanistan in October 2010, Captain Skoczenski served briefly again as a prosecutor, before receiving orders to 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, California, where he served as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate until 2013. In February 2013, Capt Skoczenski was assigned as a criminal defense counsel at Camp Pendleton, California. He served as the Defense Trial Team Leader, at Legal Team Delta, Camp Horno. Captain Skoczenski was selected for the FY16 Congressional Fellowship Program in 2015. After being promoted to Major in July 2015, Major Skoczenski reported to the Office of Legislative Affairs, Headquarters Marine Corps, in October 2015 to begin the Congressional Fellowship Orientation Program. In January 2016, Major Skoczenski was assigned as the Department of Defense Fellow in the Office of Congressman Joe Heck (NV-03). During his Congressional Fellowship, Major Skoczenski served as the Military Legislative Assistant (MLA) to Congressman Heck, who was a member of both the House Armed Services and House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Following his Congressional Fellowship in December 2016, Major Skoczenski was selected to remain on Capitol Hill as a Legislative Liaison in the Marine Corps House Liaison Office. Major Skoczenski led or assisted directly with Congressional Delegations to thirty-five different foreign countries, with Members of Congress and their Professional Staff, to include the Speaker of the House, Majority Leader, Majority Whip, and the Chairmen of the House Armed Services and Homeland Security Committees. In July 2019, Major Skoczenski executed orders to the Legal Services Support Team, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island to serve as the Senior Trial Counsel. In May 2021, Lieutenant Colonel Skoczenski executed orders to the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island. In July 2023, he executed orders to U.S. European Command, where he currently serves as the Chief of National Security Law.



Major Kyle Owens, USMC

Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, National Security Law Team, United States Indo-Pacific Command



26 February 2025 (Day 2)

Opening Remarks

Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Goines, USAF **Department Head and Senior Military Faculty, USAF** **Academy Department of Law**



Lt Col Timothy M. Goines serves as a Senior Military Faculty and Assistant Professor of Law, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he teaches Cyberlaw, Law for Air Force Officers, and the Legal Studies Capstone Course. He also serves as the Director of USAFA's Law, Technology, and Warfare Research Cell. Lt Col Goines was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska. In May of 2004, he graduated Summa Cum Laude from Creighton University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in May of 2004 through Air Force R.O.T.C. Detachment 470, University of Nebraska at Omaha. In May 2009, Lt Col Goines graduated Cum Laude from Baylor University, School of Law. Throughout his career, Lt Col Goines has served in various roles as a Judge Advocate – as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate, an Area Defense Counsel, a Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, and now as an Assistant Professor of Law. Just prior to his assignment at the Air Force Academy, Lt Col Goines received a Master of Laws Degree in Cyber, Space, and Telecommunications Law at the University of Nebraska Law School in May 2016. In February 2017, Lt Col Goines completed his Masters of Arts Degree in Military Operational Art and Science (with Highest Academic Distinction) from Air Command and Staff College.

Colonel Robert (“Bobby”) Hall, USAF **Staff Judge Advocate, United States Space Command**



Colonel Robert “Bobby” Hall is the Staff Judge Advocate for United States Space Command, the Unified Combatant Command responsible for conducting operations in, from, and to space to deter conflict, and if necessary, defeat aggression, deliver space combat power for the Joint/Combined force, and defend U.S. vital interests with allies and partners. Originally from St. Petersburg, Florida, Colonel Hall worked in private industry as an electrical engineer prior to attending law school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the North Carolina Journal of International Law and Commercial Regulation. Colonel Hall became a commissioned officer by direct appointment after his admission to the North Carolina Bar in 1997. After entering the Air Force, he served as trial and defense counsel, as well as chief of military justice at the wing and numbered air force levels. Colonel Hall also deployed as a joint task force deputy staff judge advocate and served in the air and space operations centers of two geographic combatant commands. Additionally, he served staff judge advocate tours at the major command, numbered air force, wing, and group levels in the U.S., Europe, and Middle East. Prior to his current position, Colonel Hall was the Staff Judge Advocate for Air Force Global Strike Command, advising the major command responsible for U.S. Air Force bomber, intercontinental ballistic missile, and nuclear command, control, and communications forces.



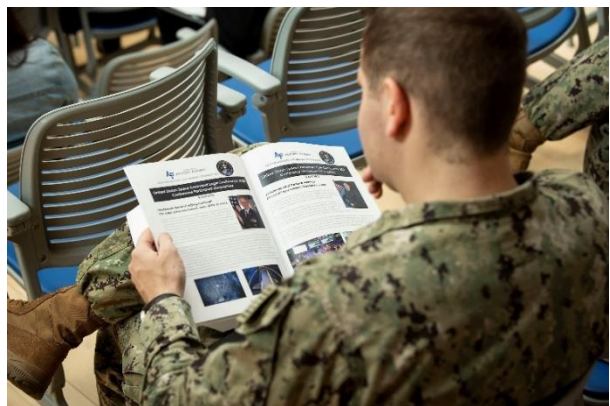
26 February 2025 (Day 2)

**Keynote: 2020-2030 As A Decisive Decade for the
Rules-Based International Order**

The Honorable Mallory Stewart

**Former Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Arms
Control, Deterrence, and Stability**

Until January 20, 2025, Mallory Stewart was the Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Arms Control, Deterrence, and Stability (ADS) at the U.S. Department of State. She joined the bureau in 2022, after serving as a Special Assistant to President Biden and Senior Director for Arms Control, Disarmament, and Nonproliferation at the National Security Council since January 2021. Prior to joining the NSC, she was the Senior Manager for Global Nuclear Security and Nonproliferation at the Center for Global Security and Cooperation in Sandia National Laboratories. From 2015 to 2017, Ms. Stewart was Deputy Assistant Secretary for Emerging Security Challenges and Defense Policy in the Arms Control Bureau. Before that, Ms. Stewart was an attorney adviser in the Department of State's Office of the Legal Adviser, beginning in 2002. During that time, she worked on numerous legal issues related to nonproliferation sanctions, weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms control, missile defense, and space security in the Office of Nonproliferation and Arms Control. Ms. Stewart has also worked as a Nonresident Fellow at the Stimson Center, an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, and as an associate at the law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell. She holds an A.B. from Harvard College and a J.D. from Stanford Law School.





26 February 2025 (Day 2)

Panel 1: Developments in International Space Law

Moderator: Major Matthew Ormsbee, USAF
Assistant Professor of Law, United States Air Force Academy

Major Matthew H. Ormsbee is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Law (DFL), United States Air Force Academy. The DFL team consists of 20 faculty and staff who engage in the design and teaching of 19 core and elective law courses, in scholarship across a variety of disciplines, in the legal support to the administration of the Cadet Honor System, and in the development of officers of character for the U.S. Air Force and Space Force. Maj Ormsbee received a direct commission as an Air Force judge advocate in November 2016 and entered active duty in January 2017. He completed Commissioned Officer Training in February 2017 and the Judge Advocate Staff Officer Course in April 2017. He served as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate at Nellis AFB and Creech AFB, Nevada. Thereafter, he was the Chief of Adverse Actions and Operational Law, and later the Area Defense Counsel at Misawa Air Base, Japan. Most recently, he earned an LL.M. degree in air and space law at the Institute of Air and Space Law, McGill University, in Montreal, Canada.



Professor Dale Stephens, CSM, FAAL
Professor of Law and Director of The University of Adelaide Research Unit on Military Law and Ethics, University of Adelaide Law School

Dr. Dale Stephens is a Professor of Law at the University of Adelaide Law School. He was admitted to legal practice in 1989 (South Australian and Federal Courts) and is a former Australian Permanent Naval Legal Officer. He has occupied numerous senior positions within the Australian Defence Force, including Director of Operations and International Law, J06 HQJOC, Director of the Military Law Training Centre, Fleet Legal Officer and Director of Navy Legal Services. His operational deployments include multiple tours of East Timor and Iraq. He has been awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM), the (US) Bronze Star and the (US) Meritorious Service Medal as well as ADF and UN Commendations for his work. He attained the rank of Captain in the Royal Australian Navy before transferring to the Reserve in 2013. Professor Stephens holds both a Doctorate (SJD) and Masters degree (LL.M) from Harvard Law School. He is Director of the Adelaide University *Research Unit on Military Law and Ethics* (RUMLAE). He is Director of the Military Law Program at the University of Adelaide Law School. He is a participating member of the *San Remo Manual on the Law of Naval Warfare* update project. He was an Editor and Chair of the Board of Directors of the *Woomera Manual on the International Law of Military Space Activities and Operations* (OUP, 2024). He is a former Chair of the South Australian Red Cross IHL Advisory Committee. In 2021 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Australian Red Cross. In 2024 he received a University Commendation for his teaching. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law.



26 February 2025 (Day 2)

Panel 1: Developments in International Space Law

Colonel Theodore (“Ted”) Richard, USAF
Staff Judge Advocate, Space Operations Command

Col Ted Richard serves as the Staff Judge Advocate at Space Operations Command, Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado. As a Field Command of the United States Space Force, Space Operations Command generates, presents, and sustains mission-ready space forces providing missile warning, positioning, navigation and timing, communications, space electronic warfare, space control, command and control, and space domain awareness capabilities for United States Space Command and other combatant commands. The command manages a global network of satellite command and control, communications, and missile warning facilities. Col Richard is a native of Madison, Wisconsin, where he spent over 10 years in the Wisconsin Army National Guard as helicopter mechanic and crew chief. Prior to law school, Col Richard was a private detective in Wisconsin and Illinois where he investigated civil and criminal cases for attorneys in private practice. While in law school, Col Richard completed internships with the Brown County Wisconsin District Attorney’s Office and Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Jon Wilcox. He was commissioned as a first lieutenant upon selection for direct appointment to the United States Air Force in September 2001.



Professor Charles Stotler
Professor of Practice and Director of the LL.M. Program in Air and Space Law, University of Mississippi



Charles Stotler is a Director of the LL.M. Program in Air and Space Law. He teaches courses on air and space law, serves as faculty advisor to students participating in the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition and advises students on LL.M. theses. His research focuses on the effects of the fragmentation of international law on aerospace governance and on rule of law for outer space activities. Mr. Stotler also advises a broad array of clients on law, policy and regulatory issues, both independently as well as in support of the work of Aviation Advocacy, a Swiss-based consultancy. He focuses on activities and technologies that push policy and regulatory boundaries, such as novel uses of unmanned aircraft systems and space applications. Prior to joining the faculty at Ole Miss, Mr. Stotler worked for the LA City Attorney's Office, representing Los Angeles World Airports. He interned with Aerospace Industries Association, the UN Counter-Terrorism Executive Director and the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs. He was a Program Officer and Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Graduate Fellow with the U.S. National Academies’ Committee on Science, Technology and Law, where he worked on space policy issues. He also served as the Co-chair American Society of International Law’s Space Law Interest Group.



26 February 2025 (Day 2)

**Panel 2: Developments in Military and
Government Space Organizations and Capabilities**

Moderator: Mr. Joey Roulette
Space Reporter, Reuters

Joey Roulette is a journalist for Reuters covering the space industry, NASA, and international space relations.



Mr. Clayton Swope
Deputy Director, Aerospace Security Project, and Senior Fellow
Defense and Security Department, Center for Strategic and
International Studies

Clayton Swope is the deputy director of the Aerospace Security Project and a senior fellow in the Defense and Security Department at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Before joining CSIS, Swope led national security and cybersecurity public policy for Amazon's Project Kuiper, an initiative to increase global broadband access through a constellation of satellites in low Earth orbit. While at Amazon, he also worked on cloud policy issues. Prior to his time at

Amazon, Swope served as a senior adviser on national security, space, foreign affairs, and technology policy issues for a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He also worked for more than 14 years at the Central Intelligence Agency, serving largely in the Directorate of Science and Technology. He holds a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering from the University of Notre Dame.

Lieutenant Colonel Felix Torres, USA
Deputy Commandant, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Center
of Excellence

LTC Felix G. Torres was born and raised in Sacramento, California. He attended the New Mexico Military Institute where he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve. He then transferred into the California Army National Guard (CANG) and was assigned to the 1-184th IN BN (AASLT) as a rifle platoon leader. LTC Torres served in the 1-184th IN BN (AASLT) for 4 years in positions such as an anti-armor platoon leader and company training officer. He was accessioned onto active duty in the Signal Corps in June 2003 and attended the Signal Officer Basic Course. Upon completion of the Signal Officer Basic Course, he was assigned to the 11th Signal Brigade out of Fort Huachuca, AZ where he served as a Medium Data Package Platoon Leader and Company XO, then as the BN S-1.





26 February 2025 (Day 2)

**Panel 2: Developments in Military and
Government Space Organizations and Capabilities**

Group Captain Edgar Gonzalez, RAAF

**Allied Integration, Strategy, Policy, and Plans Directorate, United
States Space Command**

Group Captain Edgar Gonzalez was born in Penrith, New South Wales, growing up in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney. He joined the Air Force through the Australian Defence Force Academy and after completing flying training as a Navigator, he served at Number 36 Squadron, on the C-130H Hercules. GPCAPT Gonzalez has over 3000 hours of flying experience including operational combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan and serving as a Combat Air Training Instructor at Number 285 Squadron. After completing his initial flying tour, Group Captain Gonzalez was assigned to the Joint Electronic Warfare Operational Support Unit. During this time he was selected to attend the Royal Air Force's Aerosystems Course in the UK, graduating with a Masters of Science in Aerospace Systems and continuing this assignment as an instructor on the course. Group Captain Gonzalez has served in numerous operational and capability related roles including: Operational Test and Evaluation Flight Commander for air mobility and aerial delivery; deployment to Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan as a payload operator on the Heron unmanned aerial system; exercise and trials planner at the Joint Navigation Warfare Center at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico, USA; and as Flight Commander for air electromagnetic warfare countermeasure development. On promotion to Wing Commander, GPCAPT Gonzalez was assigned to a staff role at Air Force Headquarters Air Combat Capability Branch serving as Deputy Director Airborne Electronic Attack. Most recently, Group Captain Gonzalez completed appointment as Commanding Officer of the Australian Air Warfare Centre's Joint Electronic Warfare Operational Support Unit. He is now on an exchange assignment at United States Space Command's J5 Strategy, Policy and Plans Branch at Peterson Space Force Base in Colorado, leading collaborative allied operational planning in the space domain.



Colonel Jimmy Gutzman, USAF

Staff Judge Advocate, Space Training and Readiness Command

Colonel James H. "Jimmy" Gutzman serves as the Staff Judge Advocate for Space Training and Readiness Command (STARCOM), temporarily located at Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado. STARCOM, one of three Space Force Field Commands, builds and leads the United States Space Force's education, training, doctrine, range, aggressor, and test organizations. Col Gutzman entered the Air Force in 1993 as a graduate of Basic Military Training. He served nine years as a Satellite and Wideband Maintenance Craftsman in Guam, Peru, Honduras, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. He commissioned in 2002 as a Space Operations Officer in the California Air National Guard. Upon completion of law school, he transferred back into the active-duty Air Force as a direct appointee. He previously served as staff judge advocate, deputy staff judge advocate, and chief of space law. He is admitted to practice law before the Supreme Court of Minnesota and the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.





26 February 2025 (Day 2)

Panel 3: Developments in Applying IHL/LOAC to Space Operations

**Moderator: Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Sawmiller,
USAF**

Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, United States Space Command

Lt Col Sawmiller is the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for U.S. Space Command, Peterson SFB, Colorado. He is responsible for assisting the Staff Judge Advocate in leading a nine-person legal office advising a four-star combatant commander, his staff, and subordinate forces on compliance with international and domestic law and policy for global space operations, activities, and missions. Lt Col Sawmiller enlisted in the Idaho Air National Guard in 2005, where he specialized in CBRN defense. While enlisted, he deployed twice, operating CBRN detection networks and searching for WMDs in Iraq. He also worked as a DOD information technology contractor and clerked for the Honorable Daniel Eismann, Chief Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court. Lt Col Sawmiller transferred to the Regular Air Force and received a direct commission as a Judge Advocate in December 2011. He is admitted to practice law before the Supreme Court of Idaho and the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. Prior to his current assignment, Lt Col Sawmiller served in a variety of judge advocate roles, including chief of military justice, area defense counsel, deployed rule of law advisor in Afghanistan, cyber operations legal advisor at Air Forces Cyber, fighter wing deputy staff judge advocate, and space operations legal advisor at U.S. Space Command.



Colonel Matthew T. King, USAF

**Chief of Space Law, Headquarters Air Force, Office of the
Judge Advocate General, Headquarters Air Force**

Colonel Matt King is the Chief of Space Law, Headquarters Air Force, Office of the Judge Advocate General, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. His Division serves as the primary liaison to the Chief of Space Operations and Space Staff, and advises the Air Force and Space Force on current and future space operations, international law, command and doctrine, and Total Force matters. Colonel King previously served as the Deputy Legal Counsel and Chief of International and Administrative Law, Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Staff Judge Advocate for the 30th Space

Wing at Vandenberg AFB; Air Staff attorney (Operations and International Law); Appellate Defense Counsel, representing clients before the AF Court of Criminal Appeals, Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, and United States Supreme Court; Deputy Staff Judge Advocate at Little Rock AFB, supporting two wing commanders (AMC and AETC); Assistant Professor of Law at the US Air Force Academy, teaching LOAC, Advanced LOAC, International Law, and Law for Air Force Officers, and serving as the Department of Law and Division of Social Sciences Executive Officer; Area Defense Counsel at Ramstein AB, Germany; Assistant Chief of Military Justice at Ramstein AB; and Assistant Staff Judge Advocate at Sheppard AFB. Colonel King has deployed as the Deputy Legal Advisor (LEGAD) to the AFCENT Combined Air Operations Center (CAOC) at Al Udeid AB, Qatar; LEGAD to the NATO Commander of Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan (COMKAF); and Deputy LEGAD to the NATO Headquarters in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina (NHQ-Sa).



26 February 2025 (Day 2)

Panel 3: Developments in Applying IHL/LOAC to Space Operations



Professor Jack Beard

Robert and Joanne Berkshire Professor of Law and Director of Space, Cyber, and National Security Law, Nebraska College of Law

Jack Beard is the Robert and Joanne Berkshire Professor of Law and Director of the Space, Cyber, and National Security Law Program at the University of Nebraska College of Law. His scholarship and research interests focus on public international law and national security law, with a particular emphasis on military uses of space, arms control, and the law of armed conflict. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the Woomera Manual on the International Law of Military Space Activities and Operations (Oxford University Publishing, 2024). Professor Beard joined the law faculty at Nebraska in 2011. Before coming to Nebraska, he was a member of the

faculty at the UCLA School of Law. He previously served for fourteen years as the Associate Deputy General Counsel (International Affairs) in the Department of Defense where he was responsible for a variety of legal matters related to arms control agreements, defense cooperation and basing agreements in the Middle East region, and programs assisting states of the former Soviet Union in dismantlement of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and other nonproliferation activities. These latter activities included the removal of nuclear weapons from Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine and the elimination of other WMDs and related infrastructure in those countries. He served as the senior lawyer on numerous U.S. delegations negotiating international agreements on a wide range of U.S. military operations and activities. He also served on active and reserve duty as an officer in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, where his assignments included Chief of the International Law Section, International and Operational Law Division, Office of The Judge Advocate General of the Army. He is a Lieutenant Colonel in U.S. Army JAG Corps (Retired). Professor Beard is the Chairman of the Committee on the Use of Force of the American Branch of the International Law Association (ABILA), a member of the ABILA Board of Directors, and one of the U.S. representatives on the London-based International Law Association's Committee on the Use of Force. He is a member of the International Institute of Space Law. Professor Beard is a graduate of the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, the University of Michigan Law School, and received an LL.M. in International and Comparative Law from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Mr. Stefan-Michael Wedenig

Executive Director of the McGill Centre and Institute of Air and Space Law, McGill University

Stefan-Michael Wedenig is the Executive Director of the Institute and Centre for Research in Air and Space Law at McGill University. He earned his Master of Laws (LL.M.) from McGill University and a Magister Iuris (Mag.iur.) from Johannes Kepler University in Linz, Austria. His research examines the international responsibility of States for space activities involving artificial intelligence (AI). He investigates how AI interacts with public international law, extra-contractual liability, and various sources of international law, focusing on the adaptability of current legal frameworks to the emergence of AI in space operations. Beyond his primary research, Stefan-Michael explores topics in aviation finance, sovereignty, and urban air mobility. He has served on the editorial team of the Annals of Air and Space Law and contributed to the McGill Manual on International Law Applicable to Military Uses of Outer Space (MILAMOS).





26 February 2025 (Day 2)

Panel 3: Developments in Applying IHL/LOAC to Space Operations



Mr. Jonathan Horowitz

Deputy Head of the Legal Department, International Committee of the Red Cross Regional Delegation for the U.S. and Canada

Jonathan Horowitz is the Deputy Head of the Legal Department at the ICRC's Regional Delegation for the United States and Canada, based in Washington, D.C. He focuses on legal issues pertaining to new and emerging technologies in armed conflict, urban warfare, and partnered operations. Previously he was a Legal Advisor at the United Nations and worked as a Political-Military Affairs and Rule of Law Officer at the U.S.

Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan where he advised on detention policy. Jonathan has also managed teams of investigators and conducted investigations into alleged human rights and/or IHL violations in Afghanistan, France, Kenya, the Netherlands, Pakistan, and Sudan for the United Nations, nongovernmental organizations, and legal defence teams. Jonathan received his LLM from the University of Essex (UK) and has published widely on international humanitarian law and human rights law.

26 February 2025 (Day 2)

Cadet Lightning Talk:

Commercial Space Integration: Strategy, Threat Sharing, and Ukraine

**Cadet First Class E. Micah Stark, Legal Studies
U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs**

Cadet First Class D. Micah Stark is a fourth-year cadet at the United States Air Force Academy. Cadet Stark has served in various leadership capacities within the Cadet Wing, including Summer Wing Commander, where, as the ranking cadet, he led the ~4,000 cadets throughout their summer programs. He also served as Fall Wing Standardization & Evaluation Officer, where he oversaw the execution of cadet inspections throughout the semester. A legal studies major and philosophy minor, Cadet Stark's academic interests include Law of War, Civil-Military Relations, Military Ethics, and Defense Policy. He has competed overseas with International Humanitarian Law Competitions and as an emeritus Cadet in Charge for the Academy Oath Project, Cadet Stark has worked with Profession of Arms education efforts since his first year at the Academy. In this capacity, he has presented to senior leaders at the CORONA Conference, spoken at TEDxUSAFA, briefed thousands of USAFA Cadets, guest-spoken at the U.S. Military Academy, and organized National Constitution Day events. Cadet Stark is also an avid marathoner, having raced the Boston Marathon multiple times and led the USAFA Marathon Team to victory in Inter-Service Academy Competitions for the last two and a half years. Upon graduation, Cadet Stark will commission as a Pilot Trainee Select and will attend Euro-Nato Joint Jet Pilot Training (ENJJPT), hoping to fly fighters. Before this, Cadet Stark hopes to attend graduate school.





26 February 2025 (Day 2)

Panel 4: Government and Commercial Space Operations Integration

Moderator: Ms. Lynne Tatro

Legal Advisor, U.S. Space Forces – Space

Ms. Tatro is the Senior Space Operations Law and Policy Advisor for U.S. Space Forces - Space (S4S) and the Combined Joint Force Space Component Commander (C/JFSCC), Vandenberg Space Force Base, California. S4S, the U.S. Space Force Component Field Command and Service Component to United States Space Command (USSPACECOM), plans, integrates, conducts, and assesses global space operations to protect, defend and deliver combat relevant space effects, in from, and to space, for Combatant Commanders, Coalition partners, the Joint Force, and the Nation. C/JFSCC directs world-wide day-to-day combined and joint space operations, such as space domain awareness, offensive and defensive space operations, spacecraft operations, satellite communication, strategic missile warning, nuclear detonation detection, environmental monitoring, military intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), navigation warfare, positioning, navigation and timing (PNT), human spaceflight support, and command and control, under Operation Olympic Defender on behalf of USSPACECOM. These operations are conducted in close coordination with the Intelligence Community, Coalition operations centers, and partner nations by multi-national forces and/or one of 75+ S4S subordinate units. These missions are controlled by one of S4S's five distinct and geographically dispersed operations centers: the Combined Space Operations Center (CSpOC) at Vandenberg Space Force Base, California; the Missile Warning Center (MWC) at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Colorado; the Joint Overhead Persistent Infrared Planning Center (JOPC) at Buckley Garrison, Colorado; the Joint Navigation Warfare Center (JNWC) located at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico; and the National Space Defense Center (NSDC) at Schriever Space Force Base, Colorado. The S4S legal office provides timely, relevant, 24/7 specialized, mission-focused legal support to the S4S Staff, subordinate units and operations centers. Ms. Tatro served as an active duty Air Force judge advocate for twenty years at wing, MAJCOM, HAF and CCMD positions. She served as a current operations judge advocate at the Combined Air Operations Center in Al Udeid and at the Air Operations Center in Ramstein, Germany. She also served as the Staff Judge Advocate while deployed at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan and Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. She is admitted to practice law before the Supreme Court of Florida and the Supreme Court of the United States.



Mr. Peter Muend

Director, Commercial Systems Program Office, National Reconnaissance Office



Mr. Pete Muend is the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office's Commercial Systems Program Office (CSPO) where he leads the NRO's strategy for full integration of multiple commercial imagery sources. Prior to establishing CSPO, Mr. Muend served as the NRO's director for the Commercial GEOINT Activity (CGA), a joint initiative between the NRO and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) established to position both agencies to take full advantage of existing and emerging commercial GEOINT capabilities. Prior to CGA, Mr. Muend was the Assistant Deputy Director of the National Intelligence

for Acquisition where he was responsible for overseeing Major Systems Acquisitions across the Intelligence Community. Mr. Muend also served as the NRO Chief of Staff and in a number of other positions within the NRO and Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence.



26 February 2025 (Day 2)

Panel 4: Government and Commercial Space Operations Integration

Ms. Erin Miller

Executive Director, Space ISAC



Ms. Erin M. Miller is the Executive Director of the Space Information Sharing and Analysis Center (Space ISAC). Space ISAC serves as the primary focal point for the global space industry for “all threats and all hazards.” Stood up at the direction of the White House in 2019, Erin led the Space ISAC to open its operational Watch Center, alongside its Cyber Malware and Analysis Vulnerability Laboratory in Colorado Springs, CO, USA. Under Erin’s leadership, Space ISAC’s headquarters facility is already serving several countries to achieve its mission of security and resilience for the global space industry. Each year Space ISAC puts on the Value of Space Summit (VOSS), co-hosted with The Aerospace Corporation at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. Erin has over a decade of experience building meaningful tech collaborations and has formed hundreds of formal partnerships between government, industry and academia to solve problems for warfighters and national security. As a serial entrepreneur in the non-profit space, she thrives in launching new programs and new organizations from stand up through building and scaling operations. Erin was the Managing Director of the Center for Technology, Research and Commercialization (C-TRAC) and brought three USAF-funded programs to bear at the Catalyst Campus for Technology & Innovation (www.catalystcampus.org). Her expertise in brokering unique partnerships using non-FAR type agreements led to the standup of the Air Force’s first cyber focused (#securebydesign) design studio, AFCyberWorx at the USAF Academy, and the first space accelerator, Catalyst Accelerator, at Catalyst Campus in Colorado Springs - in partnership with Air Force Research Laboratory and AFWERX. Erin serves on the advisory board of CyberSatGov, CyberLEO and is a board member for the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce & EDC. She has guest lectured at Georgetown University, United States Air Force Academy, University of Colorado at Boulder, and Johns Hopkins University.



Mr. Robert Jarman

Associate General Counsel for Aviation and Space Law, Office of Deputy General Counsel for Intelligence, Dept. of the Air Force

Robert serves as Associate Counsel, Aviation and Space Law, for the Air Force Office of Deputy General Counsel, Intelligence, International, and Military Affairs (SAF/GCI). In this capacity, he advises Department of the Air Force leadership and headquarters staff on a broad range of legal and policy matters relating to the Department’s aviation and space activities, arms control, and international law. Prior to joining SAF/GCI in August 2020, Robert exercised legal supervision over the Department of the Navy’s (DON) compliance with U.S. arms control treaties, agreements and policies beginning in 2017. He also provided legal supervision of the DON’s submarine launched ballistic missile (Trident program) partnership with the United Kingdom under the U.S.-UK Polaris Sales Agreement and U.S.-UK Mutual Defense Agreement. Robert retired from the Air Force Reserve as a Judge Advocate (JAG) in 2021 after 21 years of combined Active (16) and Reserve (5) service. During his military career, he specialized in international, operational, aviation, space and procurement law with assignments at the field, combatant command and headquarters levels. In 2015, he provided primary legal counsel on behalf of the USG in the negotiation and conclusion of the U.S.-China Rules of Behavior for Safety of Air-to-Air Encounters MOU Annex, the first military-to-military risk reduction agreement of its kind. Robert is originally from Los Angeles. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California Santa Barbara, a J.D from the George Washington University Law School and a LL.M from the McGill University, Institute of Air and Space Law. He is a member of the State Bar of California and has been admitted to practice in the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces as well as all courts of the State of California.



26 February 2025 (Day 2)

Panel 4: Government and Commercial Space Operations Integration



Mr. Fred Taylor, Jr.

Vice President, Space & Cyber Applications at Viasat

Fred Taylor is the Viasat Government Systems Vice President, Space and Cyber Applications responsible for strategy formulation, business initiatives, and integration of cutting-edge commercial space network and communication solutions purposed for government missions and applications that could benefit from Viasat crafted space-enabled technology innovations. Prior to joining Viasat, Fred served in a variety of operations, command, acquisition, and staff positions within the US Air Force, the National Reconnaissance Office, Missile Defense Agency, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He has wide-ranging experience in space and cyberspace operations, acquisition program management, policy development, and political-

military affairs. He culminated his military career as the Deputy Director of the Joint Space Operations Center and National Reconnaissance Office Senior Liaison charged with coordinating, planning, integrating, synchronizing and executing space operations to deliver tailored space effects in support of the intelligence community and joint warfighters around the globe. Fred graduated from the US Air Force Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He also earned a Master of Business Administration (International Business) from National University, CA; Master of Arts in Organizational Management from The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.; and a Master of Arts in Military Operational Art from Air University, AL. In addition, Fred was a National Security Fellow at the Harvard J.F.K School of Government where he completed coursework, lectured on space operations, and researched & published material on cyberspace superiority.





26 February 2025 (Day 2)

Closing Keynote

Developing the Narrative: A U.K. Perspective

Air Vice Marshal Mark Phelps, RAF
Director of Legal Services

Born and raised in London, Air Vice-Marshall Phelps attended Nottingham University where he read English and American Studies followed by a Masters in American Studies. At the completion of his Masters degree he went on to take the law conversion and Bar vocational courses before being called to the Bar by Lincolns Inn in 1994. He then spent 7 years at the independent Bar specialising in criminal law both prosecution and defence.

After three years as an Army Reservist Legal Officer, Air Vice-Marshall Phelps commissioned into the RAF in 2001 since which time he has served in a range of roles at HQPTC, RAF Legal Services Germany, RAF Coningsby, the Defence Concepts and Doctrine Centre, the Service Prosecuting Authority, and HQ Air Command. He has also undertaken two tours in NATO serving as Deputy Chief Legal Advisor and leading the Operational Legal Teams at HQJFC Brunssum and Naples. He deployed to Afghanistan as the dedicated lawyer to the Special Operations Command Element in 2009 and was the chief Legal Advisor to the Operational Commander of Operation Unified Protector, the NATO mission to protect civilian life in Libya in 2011, for which he was appointed OBE. He was promoted to Air Cdre in 2020 and Air Vice-Marshall in 2024.

Air Vice-Marshall Phelps is married to Sharon, a school Safe Team manager, and has three grown up daughters. In his spare time Air Vice-Marshall Phelps has a passion for military history, has written a number of articles covering such topics as the Responsibility to Protect and AI applications in Defence, and has continued to educate himself, gaining a Master's degree in Defence Leadership in 2016.





27 February 2025 (Day 3)

The Role of Space in Gaining the Decisive Advantage

General Stephen N. Whiting, USSF Commander, United States Space Command

General Stephen N. Whiting is the Commander, U.S. Space Command, headquartered at Peterson Space Force Base, Colo. As the Commander of U.S. Space Command, General Whiting is responsible for defending U.S. and Allied interests in the space domain while providing space-enabled combat effects to joint warfighters around the globe. He exercises combatant command authority over Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen, and Guardians operating ground and space-based systems around the world.



General Whiting is a 1989 distinguished graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy with a degree in aeronautical engineering. He is a space operations officer and has commanded the 13th Space Warning Squadron; the 614th Air and Space Operations Center and Joint Space Operations Center; the 21st Space Wing; and the Combined Force Space Component Command and 14th Air Force.

General Whiting's staff assignments include positions at Headquarters U.S. Air Force; U.S. Space Command; U.S. Strategic Command; the Chief of Naval Operations' Strategic Studies Group; the Office of the Deputy Secretary of Defense; Headquarters Air Force Space Command; and Headquarters U.S. Space Force. Prior to his current position, General Whiting was the Commander, Space Operations Command.





27 February 2025 (Day 3)

Panel 1: Military Space Operations as an International Team Sport

Moderator: Lieutenant Commander Blair Kuplic, USN Chief of National Security Law, United States Space Command

LCDR Blair Kuplic currently serves as Chief of National Security Law at United States Space Command in Colorado Springs, CO. LCDR Kuplic grew up in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. She holds a Master of Laws from Harvard Law School, a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, a Juris Doctor from the University of North Carolina School of Law, and Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and German with a minor in French from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. LCDR Kuplic previously served as Deputy of Operational Law at United States Pacific Fleet in Honolulu, HI. Prior to that, she served as Installation Judge Advocate at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story in Virginia Beach, VA, and at Region Legal Service Office Southeast and Defense Service Office Southeast in Mayport, FL.



Wing Commander Kieran R.J. Tinkler, RAF Legal Advisor, NATO Allied Air Command

Wing Commander Tinkler read law at the University of Sheffield and undertook a master's degree in law immediately thereafter at University College London. Following voluntary work for a legal-based NGO in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, he commenced a two year training contract at a prominent international law firm. On qualification as a Solicitor, he spent three more years at (now) Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP's Corporate Tax department before joining the RAF as a Legal Officer in 2014. Tinkler began his military career at Regional Legal Office (Northern), RAF Coningsby, before moving to Regional Legal Office (Southern) at RAF Brize Norton. In May 2016, he deployed to the CAOC in Al Udeid to assist with dynamic targeting as part of Op SHADER. Following deployment, he began advising on broader operational law issues at HQ Air Command. On promotion to Squadron Leader in 2017, Tinkler remained within the Legal Aviation and Ops team at HQ Air. He subsequently became the first RAF Legal Officer to be posted to the Stockton Center for International Law, U.S. Naval War College, in the role of Military Professor. Tinkler returned to the UK on promotion to Wing Commander in 2021, acting as SO1 Regional Legal Office (Southern), Chief of Staff Regional Legal Offices, and advisor to the Rapid Capability Office on operational law issues. He began Advanced Command and Staff Course 26 in 2022, where he was ultimately awarded the prize for "best air and space course member". He assumed the role of Chief Legal Advisor at NATO Allied Air Command in 2023, whose mission is to deliver air and space power for the Alliance. Tinkler is married to a former United States Air Force officer (Helene) and has a 3-year-old son (Johnny). In a personal capacity, he acted as a 'core expert' to the *Woomera Manual on the International Law of Military Space Operations*. Tinkler is currently a PhD candidate of Professor Michael Schmitt. His article, "Does International Humanitarian Law Confer Undue Legitimacy on Violence in War?", was recently selected by the American Society of International Law's Lieber Society on the Law of Armed Conflict for the 2024 Francis Lieber Prize.



27 February 2025 (Day 3)

Panel 1: Military Space Operations as an International Team Sport

Flight Lt Stephen Owens, RAF

Legal Advisor, SO3, U.K. Space Command

Flt Lt Owens is a Legal Advisor in RAF Legal Services (RAFLS). Flt Lt Owens studied Law & Criminal Justice and obtained a LLB (Hons) at Liverpool John Moores University before moving on to study the Legal Practice Course (LPC) with LLM at BPP University, Liverpool. Whilst studying the LPC part time on evenings and weekends, Flt Lt Owens obtained his first legal job as a Paralegal at James Murray Solicitors, defending social housing possession proceedings. After graduating, he then worked at FDR Law, Warrington, where he specialised in Private Client law. Flt Lt Owens moved to a local High Street law firm, Barrow and Cook Solicitors, where he worked as a Private Client Paralegal and then undertook a Training Contract and qualified as a Solicitor in 2019. After around six years with the firm, Flt Lt Owens left to pursue a career as a Legal Officer in the RAF in 2022. He undertook Specialist Initial Officer Training (SOIT) at RAF College Cranwell and graduated as a Flight Lieutenant. Flt Lt Owens' first tour was with Air Commercial providing legal advice to the RAF's public procurement function. Upon the closure of the Commercial Legal team, Flt Lt Owens was appointed to a new role as SO3 Legal Advisor to UK Space Command where he provides advice to the Command spanning all its business functions.



Major Jayne Thompson, CAF

Deputy Director, Strategic & Operational Law, Office of the Judge Advocate General

Major Jayne Thompson obtained her Juris Doctor from the University of Ottawa in 2012. After finishing law school, she completed internships at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania and at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. Major Thompson was called to the Ontario Bar in 2014 and joined the Canadian Armed Forces as a legal officer in 2015. She has held various positions in the Office of the Judge Advocate General, including in the Operational Law and Administrative Law divisions. Major Thompson served as a Deputy Judge Advocate in Western Canada where she advised 3rd Canadian Division Support Group and 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group. Major Thompson was also posted to the Canadian Forces Military Law Centre as an Instructor. Major Thompson is currently posted to the Strategic and Operational Law directorate where she is the Deputy Director.

Major Yuhei Saito, JASDF

Legal Staff, Air Staff Office

Major Yuhei Saito is a legal officer, belonging to the legal support group in Air Staff Office (ASO). He works to provide legal advice to the Air Chief of Staff and other staff in the ASO. With a strong interest on the new field of operations and organization reconstruction in the JASDF, he recently completed the LL.M. program in University of Adelaide. Now he mainly assists many space related projects and works include CSpO to fully leverage his experience. Maj Saito previously served as legal staff in the Air Support Command. He restarted the periodic operational law exchange with legal division of USAF 5th Air division, conducted legal research for the handling of POW in air lift for the future operation.





27 February 2025 (Day 3)

Panel 2: Legal Issues Arising from Nuclear Weapons in Outer Space

Moderator: Ms. Madison Walker

Professor and Stanton Fellow, Visiting Nuclear Scientist, Political Science Department, USAFA

Ms. Madison Walker is the Stanton Fellow and the Acting Director of the Eisenhower Center for Space and Defense Studies. In this position, she is participating in and facilitating space and national security policy research that informs both cadets and external stakeholders. She received her J.D. and a concentration in Air and Space Law from the University of Mississippi in 2019. Since graduation, Ms. Walker has worked with start-up companies and nongovernmental organizations to represent their interest nationally and internationally. Upon leaving the private section she joined the Institute of Future Conflict as their space policy fellow. There she began focusing on the intersection between space policy and national security. Her specialty is viewing space law and policy wholistically to identify contradictions or holes in the United States' approach to the space domain.



Mr. Alex Gilbert

Director of Space & Planetary Regulation, Zeno Power

Alex Gilbert is an expert in nuclear governance, energy markets, and resource geopolitics, with a focus on governance and commercialization of nuclear technologies in outer space. He is the Director of Space & Planetary Regulation at Zeno Power, leading efforts to secure the first commercial space nuclear launch approvals and authorizations for deep sea nuclear systems. He is a Ph.D. candidate in Space Resources at the Colorado School of Mines, where his research explores astronaut nuclear safety and space resource utilization on the Moon and Mars. Alex is adjunct faculty at Johns Hopkins University, teaching nuclear energy policy and regulation. He serves on NOAA's Advisory Committee on Excellence in Space, providing recommendations to the Office of Space Commerce on U.S. commercial space sector leadership. Alex has published dozens of peer-reviewed articles and editorials on energy security, space security, technology innovation, lunar policy, and nuclear law.

Major Brian Green, USAF

Chief of Space and Operations Law, Space Training & Readiness Command

Major Green is the Chief of Space and Operations Law for Space Training and Readiness Command (STARCOM) in Colorado Springs. STARCOM's mission is to prepare the United States Space Force to prevail in competition and conflict through innovative education, training, doctrine, and test. Major Green holds B.A. degrees in Political Science and Interdisciplinary Visual Arts from the University of Washington, a J.D. from the University of Virginia, and an LL.M. from the McGill University Institute of Air and Space Law. Since receiving his LL.M., he has practiced and taught space, operations, and international law at 14th Air Force, the Air Force Judge Advocate General's School, and Space Operations Command before coming to STARCOM. He deployed to Iraq in support of detainee operations in 2007 and to Qatar in support of air and space operations in 2018-19. He has published numerous articles and a book chapter on legal and strategic issues arising in space operations. His article "Countering Space-Based Weapons of Mass Destruction" was recently published on the Lieber Institute's Articles of War website.





27 February 2025 (Day 3)

Panel 2: Legal Issues Arising from Nuclear Weapons in Outer Space

Mr. Todd Pennington

Senior Research Fellow, Space Strategy & Policy, Center for Strategic Research, Institute for National Strategic Studies



Mr. Todd Pennington is the Senior Research Fellow for Space Strategy and Policy at the Center for Strategic Research, Institute for National Strategic Studies at National Defense University, in Washington, DC. He previously served as Associate Deputy General Counsel for Intelligence at the Department of Defense Office of General Counsel. During his 25 years of active-duty military service, Mr. Pennington also served as the chief legal counsel for U.S. Space Command and U.S. Space Force and held positions with the Joint Staff and Joint Special Operations Command. Mr. Pennington specializes in space strategy and policy. He is the recipient of awards including the Burton Awards' Public Service in the Military Award, U.S. Special Operations Command's Major General William F. Garrison Award for excellence in legal support to special operations forces, and numerous military decorations. He has deployed eight times to Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations. Mr. Pennington earned his Juris Doctor from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis, and a Bachelor of Arts in political science and international relations from the University of Memphis. He is admitted to practice law in the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Tennessee. He is a graduate of the Program for Emerging Leaders at National Defense University's Center for Study of Weapons of Mass Destruction and is an individual member of the International Institute of Space Law. Mr. Pennington is an adjunct professor of law at Georgetown University Law Center, where he is also an affiliate fellow with the Center on National Security.





27 February 2025 (Day 3)

Fireside Chat:

Building DoD Space Law Capacity to Enable the Decisive Advantage

Moderator: Colonel Jimmy Gutzman, USAF
Staff Judge Advocate, Space Training and Readiness Command

Colonel James H. “Jimmy” Gutzman serves as the Staff Judge Advocate for Space Training and Readiness Command (STARCOM), temporarily located at Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado. STARCOM, one of three Space Force Field Commands, builds and leads the United States Space Force’s education, training, doctrine, range, aggressor, and test organizations. Col Gutzman entered the Air Force in 1993 as a graduate of Basic Military Training. He served nine years as a Satellite and Wideband Maintenance Craftsman in Guam, Peru, Honduras, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. He commissioned in 2002 as a Space Operations Officer in the California Air National Guard. Upon completion of law school, he transferred back into the active-duty Air Force as a direct appointee. He previously served as staff judge advocate, deputy staff judge advocate, and chief of space law. He is admitted to practice law before the Supreme Court of Minnesota and the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.



Brigadier General Michael D. Tomatz, USAF
Director of Operations and International Law, The Judge Advocate General’s Corps, Department of the Air Force

Brigadier General Michael D. Tomatz is the Director of Operations and International Law, The Judge Advocate General’s Corps, Department of the Air Force. In this capacity, General Tomatz oversees the provision of legal services to the Air Force and Space Force on air and international law, space law, cyberspace and information law, environmental law and litigation, and aviation and admiralty tort matters. General Tomatz leads a team of nearly 100 judge advocates, civilian attorneys, and paralegals at 15 locations. General Tomatz was born and raised in Laramie, Wyoming. He received a direct commission as an Air Force judge advocate and entered active duty in January 1994. He is admitted to practice law before the Supreme Court of Texas, the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces and the United States Supreme Court.



27 February 2025 (Day 3)

Fireside Chat:

Building DoD Space Law Capacity to Enable the Decisive Advantage

Brigadier General Eric Widmar, USA

Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Brigadier General Widmar's exemplary 26-year career demonstrates his sustained excellence as a Judge Advocate and Army officer. Eric has served as a Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) two times, most recently as the SJA of U.S. Central Command. His previous military assignments include Principal Deputy Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Chief of Strategic Plans, Office of The Judge Advocate General; SJA, Task Force Marne & Fort Stewart; Deputy SJA, 3d Infantry Division & Fort Stewart; Chief of National Security Law and Administrative & Civil Law, U.S. Army Pacific; Military Professor and Associate Director for the Law of Land Warfare at the Charles H. Stockton Center for International Law, U.S. Naval War College; Trial Counsel, 1st Brigade, 82d Airborne Division; and Operational Law and Administrative Law Attorney, XVIII Airborne Corps & Fort Liberty. He also served multiple combat tours in Afghanistan and Iraq as the senior legal advisor for the 75th Ranger Regiment and 1st Brigade of the 82d Airborne Division, respectively. Brigadier General Widmar commissioned as an Infantry officer following graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Comparative Politics. Additionally, he earned a Juris Doctor degree from the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University, a Master's degree of Military Law from the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Legal Center & School, and a Master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College.





27 February 2025 (Day 3)

Cadet Lightning Talk: The Manned Orbiting Laboratory's Legacy and the Modern-Day Space Race



Cadet First Class Matthew A. Devine, Legal Studies U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs

Cadet First Class Matthew A. Devine, from Cincinnati, Ohio, is a Legal Studies major in his final year at the United States Air Force Academy. As Squadron Commander of Cadet Squadron 37, he manages the development of 100 cadets, ensuring their training and readiness. His leadership experience, combined with his time as a member and coach of the Air Force Academy Football Team, has honed his skills in teamwork and strategic thinking. In 2024, Cadet Devine earned his cadet pilot wings after soloing the T-53 and has been named to the Commandants, Deans, and Athletic Directors List multiple times. After graduation, he will attend Undergraduate Pilot Training to become an Air Force pilot. With a strong foundation in legal studies and military leadership, Cadet Devine is committed to the evolving field of space law.





27 February 2025 (Day 3)

Panel 3: Defending the Space Domain–The Growing Space Superiority Mission

Moderator: Major Danny Beaulieu, USAF

Assistant Professor of Law, USAF Academy Department of Law

Major Danny Beaulieu is an Assistant Professor of Law in the Department of Law at the United States Air Force Academy. He has previously served as a space law instructor at the National Security Space Institute and as an Operations Law Attorney for Space Training and Readiness Command. He has served as a legal advisor for both air and space components to multiple combatant commands, providing advice regarding the international, foreign, and domestic laws and regulations applicable to military operations in the air, in space, and at sea. He holds a J.D. and an LL.M. in International and Comparative Law from Duke Law School and an LL.M. in Air and Space Law from the University of Mississippi School of Law.



Dr. Kevin Pollpeter

**Director of Research at the China Aerospace Studies Institute,
Department of the Air Force**

Kevin Pollpeter, Ph.D., is the Director of Research for the China Aerospace Studies Institute (CASI). Before joining CASI, he was a Senior Research Scientist at the Center for Naval Analyses. Dr. Pollpeter is widely published on China national security issues, focusing on China's space program and information warfare. His recent publications include *Coercive Space Activities: The View from PRC Sources* and *To Be More Precise: BEIDOU, GPS, and the Emerging Competition in Satellite-Based PNT*. A Chinese linguist, he holds an MA in international policy studies from the Monterey Institute of International Studies and a Ph.D.

from King's College London.

Colonel (Ret.) Charles Galbreath

**Senior Resident Fellow for Space Studies at the Mitchell
Institute's Spacepower Advantage Center of Excellence**

Charles is a retired United States Space Force Colonel; a Command Space Operator with expertise in Missile Warning, Space Control, Space Launch, and ICBM operations; and a Senior Materiel Leader with experience developing advanced technology demonstration and prototype systems. Prior to joining Mitchell, Charles served as the Deputy Chief Technology and Innovation Officer on the Headquarters United Space Force staff. Throughout his military career, Charles served in a variety of space operation, acquisition, test, and staff positions, including Deputy Chief Technology and Innovation Officer, Deputy Director for Innovation and Prototyping, Deputy Director for Strategy and Plans in OSD Space Policy, Deputy Commander for the 30th Launch Group, Squadron Commander for Missile Defense Agency's demonstration satellites, and program manager for advanced space control capabilities. He also deployed to Afghanistan as the Space Liaison to Headquarters, International Security Assistance Force. In addition, he was an Air Force Fellow to the RAND Corporation.





27 February 2025 (Day 3)

Panel 3: Defending the Space Domain–The Growing Space Superiority Mission

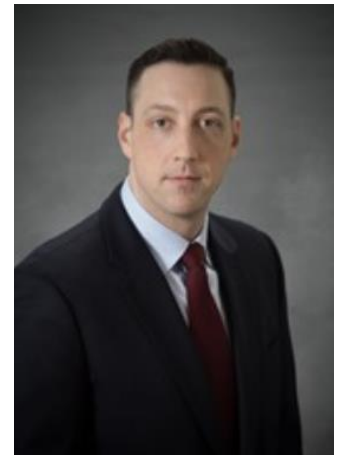


Mr. Matt Linton
Chief Legal Officer, True Anomaly

Matthew directs an innovative, responsive, and integrated legal department. Before joining True Anomaly, he was Associate General Counsel for Operations at Lockheed Martin Space, where he advised on a broad range of regulatory compliance issues, risk assessment and mitigation, crisis response, environmental and workplace safety and health, whistleblower complaints, pandemic law, privacy law, space law and policy, government contracts, and B2B agreements. Earlier in his career, Matthew was in private practice with two national law firms and in government practice with the U.S. Department of Labor, where he prosecuted workplace safety and health violations. He began his legal career as an appellate law clerk for Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey of the Colorado Supreme Court from 2006-2007. Matthew has been recognized as a rising star by Colorado Super Lawyers, he received the U.S. Department of Labor Secretary's Exceptional Achievement Award for work related to a major mining disaster, and he was the inaugural chair of the Colorado Lawyer's Committee Young Lawyers Division, a nonpartisan consortium dedicated to increasing opportunities for children, the poor, and other disadvantaged communities. He received Lockheed Martin Space awards for Exceptional Service in 2022 and Teamwork in 2021, and a Lockheed Martin Corporate NOVA award for Teamwork on the COVID-19 Task Force in 2021. Matthew holds a JD from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law and a BA in Philosophy from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Mr. Christopher Johnson
Space Law Advisor at Secure World Foundation

Christopher Johnson is the Director of Legal Affairs and Space Law at the Secure World Foundation, and an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Georgetown University Law Center, where he co-teaches the Space Law Seminar. Mr. Johnson is also a Field Editor at the *Journal of Space Safety Engineering*, on the Board of Editors of the journal *Air and Space Law*, and serves on the US Board of Directors of the Space Generation Advisory Council. He is also an external PhD candidate at Leiden University's International Institute of Air and Space Law, writing a monograph on the international legal order for the Moon. Mr. Johnson has written widely on space law and policy issues, and represents the Secure World Foundation at the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).





27 February 2025 (Day 3)

Closing Keynote

The Next Five Years in Space Law and Policy

Major General Brian W. Gibson, USA
Director, Strategy, Plans and Policy, United States
Space Command

Major General Brian W. Gibson entered the active Army in 1992 after graduating from Wheaton College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and receiving a commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps. He also holds a Master of Arts degree from Webster University in Computer Resources and Information Management and a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Army War College. His military education includes the Air Defense Artillery Officer Basic Course, Air Defense Officer Advanced Course, Combined Arms Services and Staff School, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and U.S. Army War College. Following commissioning, he served in the following key assignments: Platoon Leader and Battalion Master Gunner, 6th Battalion (Patriot), 43rd Air Defense Artillery, Ansbach, Germany and Operation Southern Watch, Saudi Arabia; Assistant Brigade Operations Officer (S-3), 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Giebelstadt, Germany, and Operation Joint Endeavor, Hungary; Commander, A Battery, 6th Battalion (Patriot), 52nd Air Defense Artillery, Ansbach, Germany, Operation Southern Watch, Saudi Arabia, and Operation Northern Watch, Turkey; Operations Research Analyst, U.S. Army Recruiting Command, 6th Recruiting Brigade, Las Vegas, NV; Operations Officer (S-3), 1st Battalion (Patriot), 7th Air Defense Artillery, Fort Bliss, TX; Operations Officer (S-3), 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Fort Bliss, TX and Operation Iraqi Freedom, Iraq; Chief of Concepts, United States Army Air Defense Artillery Director of Combat Developments, Fort Bliss, TX; Secretary of the General Staff, United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command, Alexandria, VA; Patriot / MEADS Team Chief, Headquarters Department of the Army, Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs (G-8), Pentagon, Washington, DC; 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command's (AAMDC) senior forward representative in the CENTCOM AOR, Deputy Commander, 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and Battalion Commander, 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Fort Hood, TX; Commander, 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Fort Hood, TX; Global Force Management Division Chief, Deputy Director of Regional Operations, Joint Staff Operations Directorate (J-3), Pentagon, Washington, DC; Commandant of the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School and as the Chief of Air Defense Artillery, Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Director of the Air and Missile Defense Cross-Functional Team. Major General Gibson most recently served as Commander, 94th AAMDC.





26 February 2025 (Day 2)

Lunchtime Ethics Professional Responsibility

Major Andrew Irvine, USAF

Assistant Professor of Law, USAF Academy, Department of Law

Major Andrew Irvine is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Law, United States Air Force Academy. He has previously served in legal offices at the 341st Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB, Montana, and the 628th Air Base Wing, Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina. Major Irvine also deployed in support of Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa, and served as a Victims' Counsel. Major Irvine was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps through the Graduate Law Program (GLP). He is admitted to practice law before the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts.



Conference Committee

Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Goines

Department Head and Senior Military Faculty, USAF Academy, Department of Law

Lt Col Timothy M. Goines serves as a Senior Military Faculty and Assistant Professor of Law, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he teaches Cyberlaw, Law for Air Force Officers, and the Legal Studies Capstone Course. He also serves as the Director of USAFA's Law, Technology, and Warfare Research Cell. Lt Col Goines was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska. In May of 2004, he graduated Summa Cum Laude from Creighton University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in May of 2004 through Air Force R.O.T.C. Detachment 470, University of Nebraska at Omaha. In May 2009, Lt Col Goines graduated Cum Laude from Baylor University, School of Law. Throughout his career, Lt Col Goines has served in various roles as a Judge Advocate – as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate, an Area Defense Counsel, a Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, and now as an Assistant Professor of Law. Just prior to his assignment at the Air Force Academy, Lt Col Goines received a Master of Laws Degree in Cyber, Space, and Telecommunications Law at the University of Nebraska Law School in May 2016. In February 2017, Lt Col Goines completed his Masters of Arts Degree in Military Operational Art and Science (with Highest Academic Distinction) from Air Command and Staff College.





Conference Committee

Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Sawmiller **Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, United States Space Command**



Lt Col Sawmiller is the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for U.S. Space Command, Peterson SFB, Colorado. He is responsible for assisting the Staff Judge Advocate in leading a nine-person legal office advising a four-star combatant commander, his staff, and subordinate forces on compliance with international and domestic law and policy for global space operations, activities, and missions. Lt Col Sawmiller enlisted in the Idaho Air National Guard in 2005, where he specialized in CBRN defense. While enlisted, he deployed twice, operating CBRN detection networks and searching for WMDs in Iraq. He also worked as a DOD information technology contractor and clerked for the Honorable Daniel Eismann, Chief Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court. Lt Col Sawmiller transferred to the Regular Air Force and received a direct commission as a Judge Advocate in December 2011. He is admitted to practice law before the Supreme Court of Idaho and the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. Prior to his current assignment, Lt Col Sawmiller served in a variety of judge advocate roles, including chief of military justice, area defense counsel, deployed rule of law advisor in Afghanistan, cyber operations legal advisor at Air Forces Cyber, fighter wing deputy staff judge advocate, and space operations legal advisor at U.S. Space Command.



Professor Jeffrey Biller **Associate Professor of Cyber Law & Policy, CyberWorx, USAF Academy**

Jeff Biller is an Associate Professor of Cyber Law and Policy with CyberWorx, a division of the Office of Research at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA). Through partnerships with government, academia, and industry, CyberWorx develops innovative solutions to the Department of the Air Force's most complex problems. He is also the co-director of USAFA's Law, Technology, and Warfare Research Cell. Jeff teaches in USAFA's Departments of Law and Political Science, focusing on military uses of cyber, space, and emerging technologies. Professor Biller is a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force, where he served over twenty years as a SERE

Instructor, Intelligence Officer, and Judge Advocate. Prior to joining the Air Force Academy, he served as a military professor and Director for the Law of Armed Conflict at the Stockton Center for International Law, part of the US Naval War College. His previous assignments include advising the Air Force's cyberspace wings and its component to the intelligence community.

Professor R. Aubrey Davis **Assistant Professor of Law, USAF Academy, Department of Law**

Prof. R. Aubrey Davis is an Assistant Professor of Law at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA). He serves as the Director of Law and Emerging Technology for USAFA's Law, Technology, and Warfare Research Cell (LTWRC). Prof. Davis teaches in USAFA's Department of Law focusing on international law, space, cyberspace, and emerging technology curricula. He developed a curriculum entitled Law and Emerging Technology which he is currently teaching at USAFA. His research interests focus on the nexus between technology, law, ethics, and warfare with particular focus on quantum information sciences, artificial intelligence, and biotechnology.

Prof. Davis served as an Army Aviation Officer, Intelligence Officer and as a Judge Advocate over the span of a 32-year career. He finished his active-duty career as the Chief, Cyberspace Law at Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, VA where he served as an advisor to the Air Force's operational cyberspace wings and their components to the Intelligence Community.





Conference Committee

Lieutenant Commander Blair Kuplic, USN **Chief of National Security Law, United States Space Command**

LCDR Blair Kuplic currently serves as Chief of National Security Law at United States Space Command in Colorado Springs, CO. LCDR Kuplic grew up in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. She holds a Master of Laws from Harvard Law School, a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, a Juris Doctor from the University of North Carolina School of Law, and Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and German with a minor in French from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. LCDR Kuplic previously served as Deputy of Operational Law at United States Pacific Fleet in Honolulu, HI. Prior to that, she served as Installation Judge Advocate at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story in Virginia Beach, VA, and at Region Legal Service Office Southeast and Defense Service Office Southeast in Mayport, FL.



Major Matthew Ormsbee, USAF **Assistant Professor of Law, USAF Academy, Department of Law**

Major Matthew H. Ormsbee is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Law (DFL), United States Air Force Academy. The DFL team consists of 20 faculty and staff who engage in the design and teaching of 19 core and elective law courses, in scholarship across a variety of disciplines, in the legal support to the administration of the Cadet Honor System, and in the development of officers of character for the U.S. Air Force and Space Force. Maj Ormsbee received a direct commission as an Air Force judge advocate in November 2016 and entered active duty in January 2017. He completed Commissioned Officer Training in February 2017 and the Judge Advocate Staff Officer Course in April 2017. He served as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate at Nellis AFB and Creech AFB, Nevada.

Thereafter, he was the Chief of Adverse Actions and Operational Law, and later the Area Defense Counsel at Misawa Air Base, Japan. Most recently, he earned an LL.M. degree in air and space law at the Institute of Air and Space Law, McGill University, in Montreal, Canada.

Major Danny Beaulieu, USAF **Assistant Professor of Law, USAF Academy, Department of Law**

Major Danny Beaulieu is an Assistant Professor of Law in the Department of Law at the United States Air Force Academy. He has previously served as a space law instructor at the National Security Space Institute and as an Operations Law Attorney for Space Training and Readiness Command. He has served as a legal advisor for both air and space components to multiple combatant commands, providing advice regarding the international, foreign, and domestic laws and regulations applicable to military operations in the air, in space, and at sea. He holds a J.D. and an LL.M. in International and Comparative Law from Duke Law School and an LL.M. in Air and Space Law from the University of Mississippi School of Law.





Conference Committee

Ms. Madison Walker

Professor and Stanton Fellow, Visiting Nuclear Scientist, Political Science Department, USAFA

Ms. Madison Walker is the Stanton Fellow and the Acting Director of the Eisenhower Center for Space and Defense Studies. In this position, she is participating in and facilitating space and national security policy research that informs both cadets and external stakeholders. She received her J.D. and a concentration in Air and Space Law from the University of Mississippi in 2019. Since graduation, Ms. Walker has worked with start-up companies and nongovernmental organizations to represent their interest nationally and internationally. Upon leaving the private section she joined the Institute of Future Conflict as their space policy fellow. There she began focusing on the intersection between space policy and national security. Her specialty is viewing space law and policy wholistically to identify contradictions or holes in the United States' approach to the space domain.



Ms. Melissa Murphy

Command FOIA Manager & Privacy Act/Civil Liberties Officer, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, United States Space Command

Ms. Melissa Murphy is the Command FOIA Manager & Privacy Act/Civil Liberties Officer, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, United States Space Command, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Before this position, she was the Law Office Manager Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, United States Space Command.

