

# USAWC Strategy Conference Blog Day 1

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**4:45 p.m.-** That's all for today. Be sure to check back here tomorrow for more coverage of day two of the conference. Scheduled events include:

**8:30 a.m. - *Reintegrating Veterans into American Society***

What are the physical, mental, and economic impacts on members of the U.S. military profession as they return to society? What are the policy implications of these impacts?

Panelists: Lt. Col. David Lyle, Office of Economic and Manpower Analysis; Dr. George Rutherford, Institute for Global Health; Dr. Joseph Sabia, U.S. Military Academy

Moderator: Dr. John Smith.

**10:15 a.m. - *Roles of the Military and Society: Reciprocal Expectations?***

As a steward of society, what is the proper role of the U.S. military? Should it be limited to fighting wars or expanded into other areas such as border security, diplomacy, or humanitarian missions?

Panelists: Dr. Douglas Stuart, Dickinson College; Dr. Diana Putman, U.S. Agency for International Development; Dr. Nadia Schadlow, Smith Richardson Foundation

Moderator: Prof. Douglas Lovelace.

**Noon- Luncheon, retired Maj. Gen. Robert Ivany, former USAWC Commandant**

**1:30 p.m. - *Closing Keynote – Lt. Gen. John "Jack" Sterling, Jr., U.S. Army***

LTG Sterling is the Deputy Commander of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command and is leading an Army-wide initiative to refine the understanding of what it means to be expert members of the Army profession of arms after nine years of war.

**4:19 p.m. -** "You just can't replace people who want to help just because they want to help," said Kubica. "They add and provide so much."



**4:02 p.m.** - The panel is now taking questions.

Questions have included how much funding is available for family programs, whether the military or private sector provides better services and if a stigma still exists for those who receive assistance.

**3:55 p.m.** - "The longer you wait to deal with the issue, the worse off it will be," he said. "Don't hide from it. Deal with issues as soon as you can. It will benefit you in the long run. If you don't control it, it will control you."



**3:38 p.m.** - Hunt is tackling the issue from the perspective of a clinician from his recent experience from the Maryland National Guard.

"It's hard for Soldiers sometimes," he said. "They are coming back from war and think it's not going to be a problem but it can be hard. Reintegration affects the entire family."

**3:43 p.m.** - "We need to continue to fund those programs that have the most impact for our military families," she said.



**3:36 p.m.** - Kubica is presenting the issues from a family member's perspective.

"It doesn't take a study to see that the military family is stressed," she said. "There is pressure on spouses from all angles, the unit, the family, the Army. There is an expectation that we have all the answers. A spouse needs to determine if they feel comfortable in taking a leadership role."

"We can't do it all, sometimes we need assistance."

**3:24 p.m.** - Rees is outlining the programs that the Oregon National Guard has for families and servicemembers

including job placement assistance and family reintegration programs.

"The world for us has really changed since 9/11," he said. "We recognized that we had to do something to help our men and women who were returning from deployment, sometimes without jobs to come back to."

"Our biggest challenge was getting people connected to the resources they needed. Programs like Military OneSource have been a great resource. That and many local organizations are willing to step in and help as well. We created a reintegration program that then became known as the Yellow Ribbon program."



**3:21 p.m.** - Rees is presenting the perspective of the issue from a National Guard perspective.

"It's tough at times when you are the only DoD asset in a particular region," he said.

**3:15 p.m.** - We're back. Introducing the panel is Dr. Steve Gerras, USAWC faculty member.

**2:58 p.m.** - We're taking a short 15-minute break and be back for the next panel at 3:15. This panel will focus on **Military Families and Society** and features Major General Fred Rees, Oregon National Guard; Laura Kubica, USAWC Military Family Programs; and Dr. Wayne Hunt, Johns Hopkins and Maryland Army National Guard.

**2:48 p.m.** - Questions for the panel have included changes in the chaplaincy since World War II, the inclusion of catholic Nuns in the U.S. and U.K. militaries and the challenges that religion plays in military operations.

**2:34 p.m.** - Ash and Weinstein both respond to a question about why this issue is so important to discuss this issue at a forum like this. They both agreed that it is an important issue that has national security implications.

**2:31 p.m.** "This panel i think was a great example that shows the tension that can exist when discussing this issue," said moderator Chaplain (Col.) David Reese.

**2:29 p.m.** - The panelists have finished, now it's question and answer time!



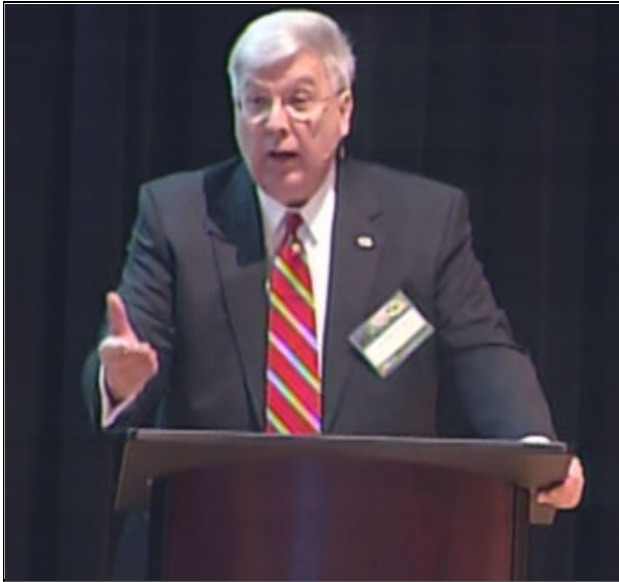
**2:14 p.m.** - Dr. Michael Snape, University of Buckingham, UK, opened his remarks by thanking Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin, USAWC commandant, for the invitation.

"It's been quite hectic at home given the impending royal wedding," he joked. He went on to explain some of the history of religion in the U.S. and U.K militaries.

"Much of what we have now for both nations is a direct result of our nation's interactions during World War II," he said. "Even the criticisms we receive are very similar."

**2:08 p.m.** - "We are one of the few countries that express such religious tolerance," said Ash. "This issue is a minefield

and needs to be dealt with delicately.”



**1:58 p.m.** - Robert W. "Skip" Ash, American Center for Law and Justice has begun his remarks.

"I'm glad to be here for such a low-key subject," he joked. "I think it is very important for us to discuss this issue during a conference like this. We need to maximize individual liberty. We need to have a balance."



**1:46 p.m.** - Mikey Weinstein, Military Religious Freedom Foundation, has taken the stage for his remarks.

"The state of the separation of church and state in the military today is a disaster," he said. He went on to point out examples where he felt that commanding officers had attempted to exert undue influence on servicemembers in the areas of religious



beliefs.

**1:42 p.m.** - "We perform an important role in advising commanders of the religious implications of military operations," said Bush.



**1:36 p.m.** -Panel introductions are complete, and Bush is delivering his opening remarks about the expression of faith in a military context and what's it's like to be an active practitioner in the military.

"We continue to be one of the most religiously diverse nations in the world and our service reflects that," he said.

**1:28 p.m.** - After an invigorating lunch session, we're back in Bliss Hall for a panel on faith in the U.S. military featuring Chaplain (Col.) Kenneth Bush, Army Chaplain School, Mikey Weinstein, Military Religious Freedom Foundation, Robert W. "Skip" Ash, American Center for Law and Justice, and Dr. Michael Snape, University of Buckingham, UK.

**12:56 p.m.** - Gordon dismissed the notion of military-media hangover from Vietnam. He said that the military today was not yet born during Vietnam, or for some during the Gulf War. He felt the media has to become the bridge between the force and society, explaining back home what's happening.



**12:41 p.m.** - Gordon and Kaplan discuss the media's perspective of the military during the session in the LVCC.

"The old media has become the new media," said Gordon, referring to the fact that they are web-first publication now. "They have the audience and they have the reporters."



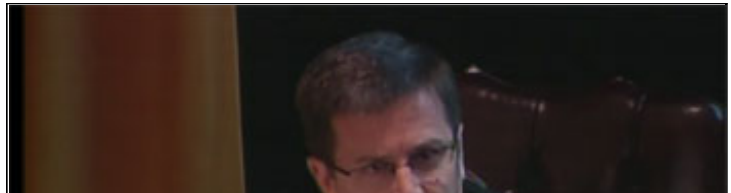
**11:39 a.m.** - The next session is a luncheon panel by Michael Gordon who will discuss with journalist Lawrence Kaplan the view of the military and society from the media perspective.



**11:17 a.m.** - The panelists are now taking questions from the audience. Questions have ranged in topics about the effects of social media, to the affects of less veterans serving in Congress.

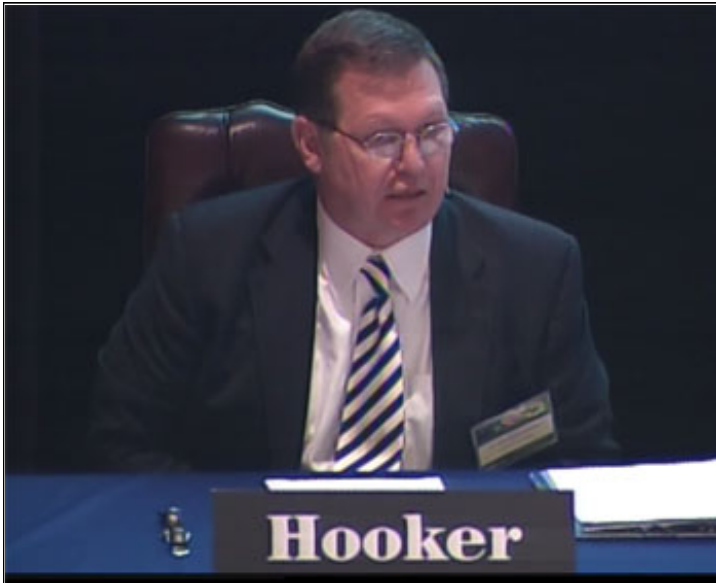
"The American public is invested emotionally in our military. That has not changed," said Hooker.

**10:52 a.m.** - Dr. Peter Feaver is discussing what we've learned about the civilian- military gap and why it's important.



"We're entering a post-war debate and it will be ongoing."  
He is also speaking about how political differences may also affect the gap.

"The issues that we found in the 90's is very similar today. We're talking about working with NATO, operations with undetermined outcomes and gays in the military. Not much has really changed."



**10:36 a.m.** - Dr. Richard Hooker discusses the perceived gaps between the military and the general public.

"Many say there is a values gap between the two, but I say no. The basic conceptions between right and wrong and the two are the same. Many issues and social concerns are seen in the same light."

Hooker did go on to say that there may be class distinctions.

"The burden of these conflicts seems to be borne unevenly by the lower class. Many middle and upper class families appear to discourage military service. "

"The implications may be a lack of understanding between the civilian leaders and the military."



**10:28 a.m.** - Dr. Brian Linn is talking about the civil-military relations and the draft and the possibility of it being used to provide the servicemembers necessary to fight today's wars.

"I think the success that it had during its use in history in the United States was an anomaly. We talk about the quantity of the troops, but not the quality."

**10:18 a.m.-** And we're back. Dr. Conrad Crane, director of the Military History Institute, is introducing the panel.

**10:01 a.m. -** We're on a break and will resume around 1015 with a panel discussion on America's Society and its Military Profession featuring Dr. Brian Linn, Texas A&M University, Dr. Richard Hooker, NATO Defense College and Dr. Peter Feaver, Duke University.



**9:56 a.m. -** Local children from James Buchanan middle school in Mercersburg, Pa, present Mortenson with a jar of pennies representing the money they raised for his "Pennies for Peace" program.

**9:53 a.m. -** "We live in a global society. Education is the intellectual capital of any society. Education gives you the ability to make choices. It gives you power. That's why education is so important."

**9:48 a.m. -** Mortenson provided this assessment of the situation in Afghanistan.

"I think that the American public sometimes places too much pressure on the military. The solution to Afghanistan is much broader. The solution is in sight, we can't throw in the towel now. We have made

a commitment and a promise. We can make it to the end.”

**9:45 a.m.** - Mortenson spoke about the progress that has been made.

“In 2000 there were about 800,000 children in Afghanistan attending schools, most men. In 2010, that number was about 8.3 million, including 2.8 million girls.”



**9:35 a.m.** - Mortenson shared the story of the work that went into building a school in Korphe, Pakistan.

"The more I do this the more I understand that education needs to be one of our top priorities." He also pointed out why the education of women is so important.

"Women who are educated are less likely to encourage their children into terrorism."

**9:28 a.m.** - Mortenson shared the story of how a meeting with a village and seeing their schools after attempting to scale K2 led to his project to start building schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

**9:22 a.m.** - "30 years of conflict have disintegrated the traditional relationships between the elders and the mullahs in Afghanistan. This has helped lead to some of the radicalization of the tribes. Our challenge now is to counteract that."

**9:10 a.m.** -Mortenson explained the title of his book, Three Cups of Tea.

"There is a saying, with the first cup of tea you are a stranger, the second cup a friend, and the third cup, you are family." He explained how after meeting in Gen. David Petraeus, he applied those concepts to relationship building.

"He said to me after reading it that his policy has three steps as well. Listen, respect, and build relationships. Before you can work in an area, you need to truly understand it."

**9:03 a.m.** --"Many times after a disaster like the earthquakes in Pakistan we focus on food, shelter and medicine, but forget about education. It is just as vital of a resource," said Mortenson.

**8:56 a.m.** -- "There are 120 million children around the world who are no in school," he said. "Many are forced to be child soldiers. They are never taught the importance of life."

"There is no reason in the world that a child should be a slave. No child should be denied an education."



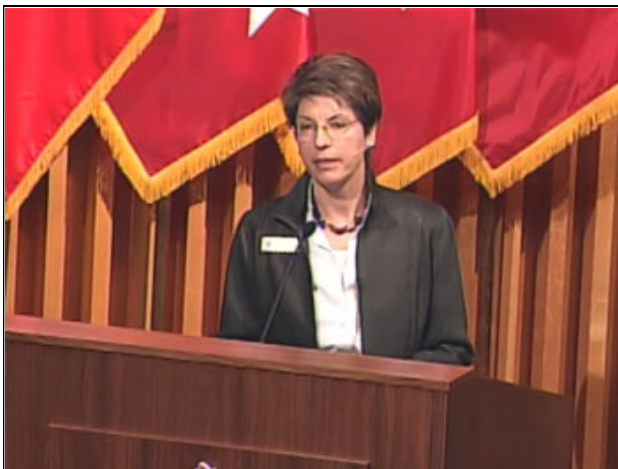


**8:9 a.m.** -- Mortenson is showing a video documenting his time setting up schools in Afghanistan.

"We continue to build schools in Afghanistan but the need never seems to end," he said.

**8:2 a.m.**-- Mortenson begun his remarks reflecting on the time her served in the Army in Germany from 1975 to 1977 as a medic.

"My time in the military made me appreciate our nation's diversity."



**8:37 a.m.**---Amb. Carol van Voorst, USAWC Deputy Commandant for International Affairs, is introducing Greg Mortenson.

"Because he writes so well, he has made a difference to men and women serving all over the world. He has given us an unforgettable look at the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan. We are in for a treat."

**8:22 a.m.**-- Bliss Hall is filling up, the conference should kick-off in the next ten minutes....



**7:43 a.m.**---The conference attendees are starting to roll into Bliss Hall, getting ready for the keynote address by Greg Mortenson at 830....

For more information on the conference visit <http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/conf/>