

## War College professor helps develop national homeland defense policy, strategy

By Curt Keester 28 January 2019



*Prof. Bert Tussing, director of Homeland Defense and Security Issues, lectures the 2018 National Security Seminar on, "The Army's Domestic Imperative: Defending and Securing the Homeland," during their capstone week.*

**CARLISLE, Pa. (Jan. 28, 2019)** – Today, Bert Tussing is the Army War College's director of Homeland Defense and Security Issues. The way he tells it, the pivotal moment in his career came in 1972 as a Navy scholarship cadet at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. That's when he met Marine Corps brat Dianne Day, who set him on a path toward the Marine Corps.

After commissioning, his performance at his initial aviation assignment was horrible, said Tussing. "To this day, I would probably be the worst student that ever made it out of there with their wings, because I wanted it so badly. I over-studied for everything." Commitment propelled him forward, however, and he became a Sea Stallion helicopter pilot.

"I discovered I could fly these things pretty well ... better than a lot of guys," he said. "It

was like the weight of the world was off my shoulders.” He describes himself as a “happy helicopter pilot” for almost 20 years, with 3,300 hours in helicopters. During his assignment as a presidential command pilot, 1989 to 1992, he flew President George H. W. Bush.

In 1994, he completed an assignment as the executive officer of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and found himself stationed at the Pentagon as the aide to the Assistant Deputy Commandant for Aviation. Soon after, he was assigned to the Office of Program Appraisal, a small think tank working for the Secretary of the Navy. There he focused on futures studies, which involved travel to Monterey, Calif, Newport, Rhode Island, and Carlisle, Pa., where he participated in The Army After Next exercise at the Army War College’s Center for Strategic Learning.

In 1996, the Brookings Institute offered Tussing the opportunity to be a legislative fellow working with Congressman Steve Buyer, then the chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel, House Armed Services Committee. A year later, he was assigned to the Pentagon as the deputy legislative assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1997-1999.

His knowledge of legislative processes helped land his assignment with the Center for Strategic Leadership, here. It wasn’t long before his boss, Dr. Kent Butts, threw him a new challenge.

“One day he spun around in his chair -- this was in 2000 -- and he said, ‘Bert, there’s this thing called consequence management. Everybody is talking about it. Nobody knows what the hell it is. You’re going to be the expert.’ And, I said, okay,” Tussing said.

He began reading everything he could on consequence management. He identified several subject matter experts, made cold calls, reached out, and developed a network. He began collaborating with researcher Fred Cilluffo at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, who introduced him to other experts in the field of homeland defense and defense support of civil authorities.

“I became part of what we now refer to as the 9/10 Crew,” Tussing said. “People who were looking at the issues before 9/11. These were people who were studying the issues, and they were pounding the tables, and they were doing the best that they could to try and bring attention to it, and I joined the chorus,” he said about the emerging field of homeland security.

Following the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, Tussing was invited to participate in studies, such as the Department of Defense’s Roles and Missions in Homeland Security and the DoD’s Role in Critical Infrastructure Protection. He helped organize events that explored homeland defense topics, like the War College’s Consequence Management Symposium. In 2006, he helped develop the Consortium for Homeland Defense and

Security in America, in partnership with George Washington University's Homeland Security Policy Institute, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and the Heritage Foundation. He is a senior fellow of George Washington University's Homeland Security Policy Institute.

In 2008, the Department of Homeland Security appointed him to its Homeland Security Advisory Council.

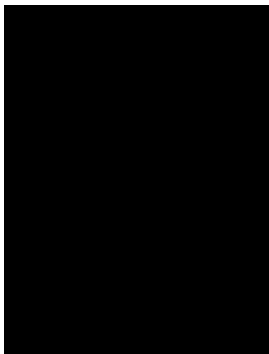
“I am blessed to enjoy extraordinary access to key components of the major stakeholders in homeland defense, homeland security, defense support of civil authorities, etc.,” said Tussing. “As such, I have opportunities to not only remain abreast of the direction of our strategies and policies but to occasionally contribute to their development. For instance, last January we hosted an event looking at our doctrine for Defense Support of Civil Authorities, viewed through the prism of what had happened in the fall of 2017 following Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.”

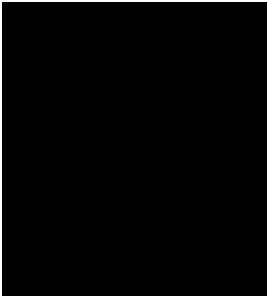
In July 2019, in partnership with the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, he will host a symposium on Defense Support of Civilian Law Enforcement Agencies in the face of Complex Catastrophes. And, in January 2020, he hopes to hold a conference at the War College to examine the current and evolving role of the military in border security. He plans to publish the results and add the lessons learned to courses and electives taught at the war college.

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