

Army War College farewells SSI Director Ike Wilson

By Public Affairs Office 11 May 2020



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Dr. Isaiah 'Ike' Wilson has served as director of the USAWC Strategic Studies Institute leading transformation since January 2019. He'll next serve as president of the Joint Special Operations University, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

Today, the Strategic Studies Institute team held a virtual farewell ceremony for Dr. Isaiah 'Ike' Wilson, director of the USAWC think tank, the Strategic

Studies Institute. The two events will be followed by a USAWC Directors' Call on May 12, and when restrictions are lifted, a more formal event.

"The U.S. Army War College vision is to be a premier institution for developing invaluable strategic leaders and influential ideas," said Maj. Gen. John Kem, Commandant. "Ike has made a tremendous difference in both, especially in building collaborative partnerships internally and externally to expand our efforts to enhance national and global security. We will all miss his energy, deep thinking, leadership, and friendship."

Wilson's last formal action with the SSI was the launch of the online series, SSI Special Commentary: COVID-19 and National Security. And the early Summer publication of the next Parameters will bear his signature interest in recognizing the research contributions of USAWC Faculty.

Wilson's next move is to become president of the Joint Special Operations University, Florida.

His stamp on SSI is broader and deeper than his 16-month tenure might suggest, having focused his attention and skill on a holistic review and revision of SSI's research focus areas and expertise, support to Army requirements, and external collaboration.

Dr. Wilson led a transformation of the SSI team and a reformation and reinvigoration of College-wide institutional research and learning. He has been the driving force behind the College's efforts to innovate and create new approaches to research and advancing knowledge, and to form SSI collaboration partnerships and research clusters, noted Provost Dr. Jim Breckenridge. He created and led implementation of the new Integrative Research and Analysis Estimate and annual agenda-setting protocols for a whole-of-USAWC research program. In a ground-breaking effort, he led the establishment of USAWC's new "Four R&A Arenas," clarifying the broad domains of issues of research interest for the US Army War College. Additionally, he created a new Research Professor and Fellow Program.

Dr. Wilson created formal cosponsoring partnerships to increase collaboration and extend effects. These include, among others, New America think tank, for shared interest in proxy warfare and disruptive technology; Arizona State University, with respect to Future of War studies; University of Chicago Project on Security Threats, with a focus on terrorism; Ecole de Guerre (French War College); and NATO COE-DAT.

The College has selected Dr. Carol Evans to be the Director of the

USAWC Strategic Studies Institute, as of May 11, bringing to the position her expertise as a researcher, instructor and specialist in geo-economics, geo-strategy, intelligence, and international security.

SSI Research Focus Arenas and supporting interests are --

(Geo)Strategic Net Assessment -- • Regional and transregional threat analysis • Sources of adversary compound threat conduct (strategies, operational methods, and decision-making) • Partner / Allied / IA / Joint / Commercial cooperation and interoperability

(Geo)Strategic Forecasting(Anticipating Change) -- • Geopolitics • Geo-economics • Technological development • Disruption and innovation

Applied Strategic Art - • “All Things” War (& Peace) • Warfare and warfighting functions • Mastery of joint and multinational campaigning • Spectrum of conflict

Industrial / Enterprise Management, Leadership, and Innovation - • Ethics and the profession • Organizational culture, effectiveness, transformational change • Talent development and management • Force mobilization and modernization (all things readiness)

Recent SSI Publications reflect the four USAWC Research Focus Areas --

Wilson's forewords for SSI publications reflected the primacy and immediacy of the four Research Focus Areas

“By all indications, Vladimir Putin’s aggressive policies against the West continue without interruption.... [T]he papers collected here aim to provide a synoptic view of [Russian] domestic developments, the ability of Russia’s economy (and in particular, its programs, its operations in Syria and Ukraine, Russian information warfare, nuclear issues, the Russian Navy and a theater by theater assessment of the ongoing buildup of Russian forces and the challenges they face,” he wrote about [The Russian Military in Contemporary Perspective](#), edited by former SSI research professor Dr. Stephen J. Blank.

[Professionalizing the Iraqi Army: US Engagement after the Islamic State](#), by Dr C. A. Pfaff -- “If the United States is going to be more successful in developing Iraqi military capabilities, it will need to change its approach to better account for the Iraqi Army’s culture, history, and political environment.”

Nonstate actors and Anti-Access/ Area-Denial Strategies: The Coming Challenge, by Dr. Jean-Loup Samaan "... [I]f a scenario of multiple nonstate A2/AD "bubbles" were to unfold, the United States and its allies could face unprecedented challenges, especially in the field of counterterrorism campaigns ... this type of conflict would potentially raise the level of casualties and constitute a kind of life insurance for the terrorist organizations

"With a focus on the meanings of competition, the logic of deterrence, and the comparative historical analysis of MDO concept development with earlier concepts including the Active Defense and AirLand Battle, [this] commentary has provided Army senior leadership with a comprehensive and critical appraisal of progress made, still with work (and thinking) to be done in a manner "temporally" ripe and vital to getting MDO "right" – purposefully, spatially, and "just in time," wrote Wilson about -- [US Army in Multi-Domain Operations](#), commentary by retired U.S Army Brig. Gen. Huba Wass de Czege -- "Do the central ideas of the Army's doctrine provide logical counters to hegemonic behavior from Russia or China?"

[Parameters, Spring 2020](#) – the USAWC Quarterly Journal on Contemporary Strategy & Landpower - included Special Commentary on #FakeNews in #NatSec ... Civil-Military Relations ... Adapting to Adaptive ... Strategic Lieutenants Part II

[Turkey & the US on the brink: Implications for NATO and the US-Turkish strategic and military partnership](#), by Dr. Amal A. Beyoghlou