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Plenary Session Panel – Destination Unknown: Exploring War and Strategy through Graphic Novels

Panel Moderator: Ms. Valerie Jackson, Director, Krulak Center

Ms. Valerie Jackson has more than two decades in federal service, principally as a United States Marine. As the Director of the Krulak Center, she leads a civilian and military team that creates programming and opportunities for all Marine Corps University students and faculty, Marines around the Fleet Marine Force, and partner organizations. Before coming to the Krulak Center, she was an arbitrator and non-profit board member in Dallas, Texas. Her areas of expertise include conflict management and resolution, civil-military operations, international relations, and strategic studies. She has led and commanded Marine units throughout her career, and has spent time as an instructor at the Marine Corps Civil Military Operations School and as the senior editor and field historian for the Marine Corps History Division. She is a current member of the Marine Toys for Tots Board of Directors and the Northern Virginia chapter of SheepDog Impact Assistance, serving veterans and first responders.

Major Adam Yang

Major Yang is a communications and information operations officer, and he currently serves as a Doctoral Fellow for the Commandant of the Marine Corps Strategist Program. He is also the creator and senior editor of the Destination Unknown graphic novel series; and co-founder of Marine Corps University’s grassroots innovation community, @EndersGalley. As a PhD candidate at American University, his dissertation project investigates the relationship between organizational warfighting culture and military innovation. He can be found on Twitter @AdamYang2005

Dr. Kyleanne Hunter

Dr. Hunter PhD, is a Marine Corps combat veteran with multiple combat deployments as an AH-1W “Super Cobra” attack pilot. She finished her active duty time in the Marine Corps’ Legislative Liaison Office in the House of Representatives. She is as Assistant Professor of Military and Strategic Studies and Director of the Strategy and Warfare Center at the United States Air Force Academy, a senior adjunct fellow at Center for a New American Security, a non-resident fellow at the Brute Krulak Center for Creativity and Innovation, an adjunct senior political scientist at RAND, and the co-director of the Athena Leadership Project. She is chair of the culture and climate line of effort for the Presidential Independent Review Commission on Military Sexual Assault. She holds a Bachelors of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University’s Walsh School of Foreign Service, and a Masters of Arts and a Doctorate from University of Denver’s Josef Korbel School of International Studies. She was part of the Department of Veterans Affairs inaugural class of
“Women Veteran Trailblazers,” and named as one of HillIVets 100 most influential veterans in 2018. She and her husband reside in Colorado Springs, CO.

**Second Lieutenant Zachary Flash**

Lt Flash is a native of Atlanta, Georgia. He is a recent graduate of the US Air Force Academy (USAFA) and a member of the class of 2021. At USAFA, he majored in Foreign Area Studies with a focus in Military and Strategic Studies and a minor in French. He was selected as the 2021 Outstanding Cadet in Foreign Area Studies, and he was awarded the 2020-2021 Thomas D. Moore Award for Outstanding Cadet Summer Research in the Humanities Division for his research into Role 2 medical teams with the Joint Trauma System. For his senior capstone project, he led 3 cadets to convert his research into a future-focused graphic story to be published in *Destination Unknown*.

**Major Ian T. Brown**

Major Brown is a CH-53E pilot serving as the operations officer for the Brute Krulak Center for Innovation and Future Warfare at Marine Corps University. He has written both fiction and non-fiction on maneuver warfare, military history, and future war. He contributed the story “Plan Crimson” to *Destination Unknown* vol. 2.5, and co-authored “Just the FACTs” for the upcoming vol. 3. Major Brown is also the author of *A New Conception of War: John Boyd, the U.S. Marines, and Maneuver Warfare* (Marine Corps University Press, 2018), which was added to the most recent iteration of the Marine Corps Commandant's Professional Reading Program.

**Major Sara Wood**

Major Wood is an intelligence and information operations reserve officer. In her civilian life she is a Signature Management Analyst at the Marine Corps Information Operations Center (MCIOC) on Marine Corps Base Quantico. She is an editor of the *Destination Unknown* graphic novel series and a co-founder of the Barrow Fellowship at Marine Corps University. She is currently writing planning guidance for Signature Management and conducting Own-Force Signature Assessments.

Social Media for *Destination Unknown*: @TheKrulakCenter, @MarineCorpsU, @MCUFoundation, and @MC_UPres
War and Society Panel

Panel Moderator: Thomas L. Harper

Presenters

Matt Bucher – Potemkin Paradise: The United Federation in the 24th Century

Matt Bucher is a US Navy veteran in the Washington, DC area currently working on his Masters in History with a focus on Public History at The George Washington University. Previously, he acquired his B.A. in International Affairs with a concentration in Security Policy from GWU on the GI Bill, and his A.A. from Northern Virginia Community College. When he isn't at work, studying, video gaming, or arguing about science fiction online, he spends his time exploring public lands with his wife."

Elsa B. Kania - Beyond Loyalty, Duty, Honor: Competing Paradigms of Professionalism in the Civil-Military Relations of Babylon 5

Elsa B. Kania is an Adjunct Senior Fellow with the Technology and National Security Program at the Center for a New American Security. Currently, Ms. Kania is a PhD candidate in Harvard University's Department of Government.

She can be found on Twitter @EBKania

S.H. Harrison, writer and blogger - Star Culture Wars: The Negative Impact of Politics and Imperialism on Imperial Naval Capability in Star Wars

S.H. Harrison is an author, critic, and fanboy who takes a galaxy far, far away far, far too seriously. You can follow him @S_H_Harrison or at his blog at shharrison.com.
Matthew Ader – The Aristocrats Strike Back: Re-evaluating the Political Composition of the Alliance to Restore the Republic

Matthew Ader is a student in the Department of War Studies at King’s College London. His research is focused on the intersection of climate change and French strategy in North Africa. He is a frequent contributor to security blogs, including Wavell Room, Grounded Curiosity, and Angry Staff Officer. In his spare time, he can generally be found trying to analyse science fiction and fantasy books for military lessons learnt. The record on this is, so far, somewhat mixed.

You can find him on Twitter @AderMatthew

Lt Col Bree Fram, USSF - Leadership in Transition: Lessons from Trill

Bree Fram is a Lieutenant Colonel in the US Space Force and is currently a student at the Naval War College. She's on her way to the Pentagon to work in the Secretary of the Air Force's office of Space Integration. She has commanded at the squadron level, led USAF security cooperation with Iraq, served on the staff of Congresswoman Bordallo, and has led multiple space acquisition programs. She grew up thinking she'd be Geordi LaForge but turned out to be more of a Jadzia Dax. To burnish her nerd cred, she imperiously extended her love of sci-fi to her firstborn by naming her after D'Lenn from Babylon 5.

She is on Twitter @bfram3
Past and Future Competition Panel

Panel Moderator: Kera “Puff” Rolsen

Presenters:
William J. Prom – The Once and Future King of Battle: Artillery (and its absence) in Science Fiction

William Prom graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with a B.S. in History and a commission in the U.S. Marine Corps. In the Marine Corps, he was privileged enough to become an artillery officer stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA. He deployed to the Helmand province of Afghanistan in 2012 as a HIMARS Fire Direction Officer and on the 13th MEU in 2013-2014 as the BLT 1/4 Fire Support Officer and Fire Support Coordinator. After leaving the Marine Corps in 2014, William attempted (spectacularly unsuccessfully) to make a career as a professional runner. Despite living in Texas, he still identifies from Wisconsin. He now works as a writer with pieces published in Naval History, CIMSEC, and elsewhere. His Twitter handle is @wjprom

Tom Shugart, Adjunct Senior Fellow, Center for a New American Security - All About EVE: What Virtual Forever Wars Can Teach Us About the Future of Combat

Tom Shugart served for over twenty-five years in the Navy, where he last worked in OSD’s Office of Net Assessment. He served as a submarine warfare officer during his military service, deploying multiple times to the Indo-Pacific and commanding USS Olympia (SSN 717) from 2013 to 2016. He later served on the Navy Staff as the principal officer providing oversight of the Columbia Class SSBN Program, the Navy’s highest-priority acquisition effort. He previously served on the Joint Staff as the principal officer responsible for nuclear strike planning, advising senior leaders on nuclear weapons employment plans and training command center personnel on nuclear command and control. He’s on Twitter @tshugart3.

Andy Poulastides, Host of The Great Derelict Podcast – Starfleet’s Dreadnought Moment: Or how I learned to stop worrying and love the Galaxy Class

Andy is a life long science fiction fan, and would often be found at high school sitting at the edge of the playground with a copy of the Star Trek The Next Generation Technical Manual, pouring over the details of the Structural integrity field and inertial dampeners, today he challenges that curiosity an love of Sci-Fi into his Podcast ‘The Great Derelict’ where he explores the in’s and outs of Science fiction and what that can teach us about our world today. Andy lives in London with his wife Amber, and Cats Kaylee and Amos and is a avid cosplayer and prop-maker in his spare time. Find him on Twitter @Andy3E Podcast or @GreatDerelict.
Mark Vandroff, Captain, USN (Ret) – Saganami’s Shadow, How Officer Training in the Royal Maniticoran Navy of David Webber’s “Honorverse” Changed During the First Havenite War

Mark Vandroff is the Senior Vice President of Business Development at Fincantieri Marine Group. A proud member of the US Naval Academy Class of 1989, Mark has had a long career in both government and industry involving various phases of defense acquisition and security policy. Mark recently served as the Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Defense Policy on the National Security Council staff at The White House. In this role, he served as the President’s senior White House advisor on a broad array of matters including defense capabilities, irregular and non-traditional warfare, strategic weapons, international security cooperation, military personnel, emerging defense technology, and space security. During his time on active duty, Mark was the Major Program Manager of the DDG 51 class shipbuilding program and the Commanding Officer of NSWC Carderock. Mark is the recipient of the Secretary of Defense’s Outstanding Public Service Award and the 2018 Gold Medal for Excellence in Naval Engineering from the American Society of Naval Engineers. His Twitter is @goatmaster89.

Brian Kirkpatrick – In Space, No One Can Hear You ‘Oorah’

Brian Kirkpatrick is a senior systems engineer for ExoAnalytic Solutions who works in the aerospace and defense industry. He is currently quarterbacking a 3d engine for web applications with multiple use cases--including space operations; wargaming; and common operating pictures--that let him combine many of his passions from orbital mechanics to graphics programming and information design. After earning a Bachelors in Engineering from Harvey Mudd, and a Masters in Aerospace from Cal Poly, he has been working the southern California aerospace scene for multiple organizations--big and small, commercial and FFRDC, from R&D to acquisitions. Brian has far too many side projects to be good for his mental health, but enjoys hiking, reading, and raising three little nerds. He’s on Twitter @tythoseternal and LinkedIn @brian-e-kirkpatrick.
Preparation for Future Combat Panel
Panel Moderator: Ian Boley

Presenters

J. Overton, Dept of Navy Civilian – *The Cold Cash War: A Post-Vietnam Science Fiction Fable of Security in Transition*

J. Overton is a civilian employee of the U.S. Navy, was previously an adjunct professor for the Naval War College and Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and served in the U.S. Coast Guard. He’s published more than 30 articles and book reviews, and presented papers at the Naval Academy’s McMullen History Symposium and at the Society for Military History’s annual conference. The views and opinions expressed are solely his own and do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government.

Chris Dailey, MIDS (“For a title, I would like either His Eminence, His Grace, or The White Flame Dancing on the Graves of His Enemies. I will also accept The Mahatma.”) - *Fantastical AIs and Where to Find Them Illegal*

Chris Dailey graduated from USNA in 2008 with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science. He served in the Surface Warfare community for eight years, aboard DDG-54 the USS CURTIS WILBUR, the Seventh Fleet Staff, and the US Navy Ceremonial Guard. He completed graduate training at the University of California: Berkeley, chosen primarily because the school colors are blue and gold so he didn't have to buy any new spirit gear, in 2016 with a Master's in Information and Data Science. The degree credential is abbreviated MIDS, the irony of which he recognizes but prefers not to acknowledge, though he will acknowledge that this is not technically irony. He currently works as Head of AI at Electronic Warfare Associates. He is @dails08 on twitter.

LCDR Andy Rucker – *System Shock: National Security in an Up-ended World*

LCDR Andrew “Andy” Rucker is a 2005 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and qualified in Submarines on board *San Francisco* (SSN 711) in 2009. He also served as the Navigator on *Scranton* (SSN 756) from 2012 to 2015. In 2017 he laterally transferred to the Information Professional community. Following IP Basic training, he served as the Information Systems Officer on board *Bataan* (LHD 5) from 2018 to 2020. He is currently assigned to the Naval Computers and Telecommunications Area Master Station Atlantic (NCTAMS LANT) as the Communications Officer. He’s on Facebook as Andy Rucker,
**Phillip M. Cunio**, Corporate Lecturer at ExoAnalytic Solutions - *Salamis: Seaborne and Spaceborne Battles*

Phillip M. Cunio is the Corporate Lecturer and Chief Systems Engineer across a broad portfolio of Space Situational Awareness projects at ExoAnalytic Solutions. He develops novel techniques to extract actionable information from the large volumes of data collected by ExoAnalytic’s Global Telescope Network, and occasionally designs and builds prototypes for small mobile sensors. While studying aeronautics and astronautics at MIT, Phillip led a team of students in developing a hopping vehicle for planetary surface exploration; he later moved to work for the AFRL Space Vehicles Directorate at Kirtland AFB, designing imaging systems for major space experiments. Phillip has authored or co-authored technical publications in areas ranging from human factors to runway acoustic mapping, and has a long background in educational and public outreach, including consulting as a technical expert for works in the theater and film.

**Nick Narbutovskih – A Fortress For All My Friends**

N.T. Narbutovskih spends the majority of his time engaged in the business of national security. He writes compulsively over lunch breaks and late at night, and reads a lot more than is entirely healthy. He writes the weekly Classics Column at [Metastellar](https://metastellar.com), and has published there and in the *Air and Space Power Journal* and *Over the Horizon Journal* for both fiction and non-fiction. He has spoken on leadership and geopolitics at the USAF Squadron Officer School and NavyCON 2020a. Come join the conversation at [Narbutov.com](http://narbutov.com). He’s also on Twitter @NNarbutovskih and Instagram @NNarbutovskih
Concluding Panel – *To Boldly Go*: Taking Science Fiction into the Final Frontier

Panel Moderator: Colonel (Ret) Steve Leonard

Steve Leonard serves as the Director of Assessments for the University of Kansas School of Business, where he is an award-winning faculty member and chairs graduate programs in Organizational Leadership and Supply Chain Management. A former senior military strategist and the creative force behind the defense microblog, Doctrine Man!! He is the author of a weekly column, *Point of Departure*; a senior fellow at the Modern War Institute at West Point; the co-founder of the national security blog, Divergent Options, and the podcast, The Smell of Victory; co-founder of the Military Writers Guild; and a member of the editorial review board of the Arthur D. Simons Center’s Interagency Journal. Published extensively, his writing focuses on issues of foreign and defense policy, national security, strategy and planning, leadership and leader development, and, occasionally, fiction. An alumnus of the School of Advanced Military Studies, he led the interagency team that authored the U.S. Army’s first stability operations doctrine, spearheaded the reintroduction of operational art into capstone doctrine, and wrote the guiding principles for the Army Design Methodology. He is the author, co-author, or editor of five books, numerous professional articles, countless weekly columns, and is a prolific, award-winning cartoonist. Find him on Twitter @doctrine_man

Panelists

Lt Col Kera “Puff” Rolsen

Lt Col Kera “Puff” Rolsen, U.S. Air Force is a strategist and instructor Electronic Warfare Officer with fifteen years of aviation experience, fourteen of which have been in the B-52. She is a distinguished graduate of USAFWS class 11B and a former instructor in the USAFWS B-52 division. She also has experience leading large groups with diverse specialties through problem-solving and execution at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels. She is an internationally published author, having written for military and civilian strategic organizations, strategy journals, commercial publications, and as a fiction novelist. Her penname is the worst kept secret in the DoD.
**NAVYCon**

**Major General Mick Ryan**

Maj. Gen. Mick Ryan is an Australian Army officer. A graduate of Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and the USMC Command and Staff College and School of Advanced Warfare, he is a passionate advocate of professional education and lifelong learning. He has commanded at platoon, squadron, regiment, task force, and brigade level, and is a science fiction fan, a cricket tragic, and an aspiring writer. In January 2018, he assumed command of the Australian Defence College in Canberra, Australia. He is currently also an adjunct scholar at the Modern War Institute. His Twitter is @WarInTheFuture

**COL Jon Klug**

Colonel Jonathan P. Klug, U.S. Army, is an Assistant Professor at the U. S. Army War College in the Department of Military Strategy, Planning, and Operations. He is a Ph.D. Candidate in naval and military history at the University of New Brunswick. Jon holds degrees from the U. S. Military Academy, Louisiana State University, and the U. S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies. An award-winning military history instructor, he taught naval and military history at the U. S. Air Force Academy and the U. S. Naval Academy. His overseas service includes Haiti, Bosnia, Korea, Egypt, Germany, Iraq, and Afghanistan. His social media handle is @Strategy_Troll

**LTC Erica Iverson**

Lieutenant Colonel Erica Iverson, U.S. Army, currently serves as the Director of Strategy, Innovation and Data Analysis for the Army Enterprise Marketing Organization in Chicago. Erica holds degrees from Creighton University, George Washington University, and the Quantic School of Business and Technology. She is a military strategist with a diverse range of strategic career assignments spanning the globe in Asia, Europe and the Middle East.