Congressional Biographies

Hon. Jack Bergman

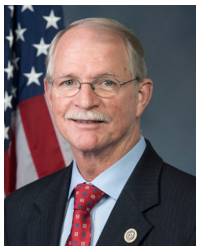
U.S. Congress, 1st District, MI

Growing up in the Midwest, Jack Bergman's parents instilled in him the values that drive the American Dream: If you work hard, never quit, and strive for excellence, you will find success. Those values are what guided him to the rank of Lt. General in the United States Marine Corps, empowered him to successfully own and operate a small business, and allowed him to enjoy a 22-year career as a commercial airline pilot.

Jack proudly represents the First District of Michigan. The boundaries contain the entire Upper Peninsula and all of northern lower Peninsula. Altogether, the district makes up about 44% of the land mass of the state of Michigan. The Bergman family roots in Michigan's Upper Peninsula stretch back to the late 1800's where his ancestors worked as iron miners. Serving his country in uniform for 40 years, Jack has spent time all around the United States – and world. Nearly three decades ago, Jack and his wife Cindy settled in Watersmeet, on the western edge of Michigan's beautiful Upper Peninsula.

Jack is a grandfather to ten grandchildren. This has always been one of the largest factors in his service in Congress. When Jack sees what is happening in Washington, he knows that we are not doing our best at leaving our children and grandchildren a better place. From his business to his distinguished military career, and now in Congress – Jack Bergman does not accept the status-quo as an acceptable path forward. Jack is driven by his commitment to serving others. While in the military, he launched two successful startup businesses in the medical equipment field, maintaining an obligation to both his nation and his customers simultaneously. As an entrepreneurial leader focused on mission accomplishment and customer satisfaction, Jack knows how to get things done.

Hard work and commitment made the United States the most exceptional nation in the world. Those are the principles that have guided Jack's life, and are the principles that he is bringing to Washington. He believes what most Michiganders believe: Americans know how to live their lives better than politicians or bureaucrats do. Jack's life has been dedicated to service and defending the Constitution. He is the highest ranking combat Veteran to have ever served in the U.S. House. He is shaking up the status quo in both Congress and will continue defending the United States from those who want to weaken it, both domestically and abroad.



Hon. John Rutherford

U.S. Congress, 5th District, FL

John Rutherford (FL-05) is serving his fourth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. He sits on the House Ethics Committee and the House Appropriations Committee where he serves on three subcommittees: Homeland Security, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Transportation and Housing and Urban Development.

John has lived in Jacksonville, Florida, since 1958, and attended Florida Junior College and Florida State University where he studied Criminology. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, 171st Session and the National Executive Institute. He began his career in law enforcement in 1974 as a patrolman in the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO), where he worked his way up to eventually served as sheriff.

In 2003, 2007, and 2011, John was elected Sheriff of Duval County. For twelve years, John effectively ran a 3,200 employee office, and brought homicide and overall violent crime in Jacksonville to a 40-year low. Using a model of intelligence-led and community-based policing, John and his team of law enforcement professionals dramatically improved neighborhoods and prevented crime throughout the community. He also made the mental health component of the criminal justice system a priority, reducing the recidivism rates of the mentally ill and facilitating their treatment.

John also served as Chair of the Legislative Committee for the Florida Sheriff's Association, where he advocated before the State Legislature for policies that strengthened constitutional rights, supported our law enforcement, and enhanced public safety across Florida.

John has been happily married to his wife, Pat, for 51 years with whom he shares two children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. John and Pat are devoted members of Assumption Catholic Church in Jacksonville, Florida.

Keynote Biography

Jane Pinelis, Ph.D.

Chief AI Engineer, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory

Dr. Jane Pinelis currently serves as the chief AI engineer of the Applied Information Sciences Branch at Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU/APL).

She leads a diverse group of AI scientists and analysts in the development, assurance, and integration of AI capabilities. Her leadership extends to the formulation of cutting-edge assurance-specific products and stringent standards designed to fortify testing of AI-driven systems across the multifaceted landscape of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD).

Dr. Pinelis holds a BS in statistics, economics, and mathematics, an MA in statistics, and a Ph.D. in statistics, all from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Prior to her current role, she served as the inaugural Chief of AI assurance at the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office (CDAO) and the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center (JAIC) at the DOD, where she oversaw the test and evaluation (T&E) and responsible AI (RAI) directorates. Her career has largely focused on operational T&E, both in support of the service operational testing commands and at the Office of the Secretary of Defense level.

In addition to Dr. Pinelis' positions at the CDAO and JAIC, prior leadership roles include serving as the inaugural T&E director on Project Maven, managing the test science team that supports the Office of the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT&E), and leading the design and analysis of the highly publicized study on the effects of integrating women into combat roles in the Marine Corps during her assignment at the Marine Corps Operational Test and Evaluation Activity.

Speaker Biographies

Bob Armstrong

Executive Director, Sentara Center for Healthcare Simulation and Immersive Learning, Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences, Old Dominion University

Bob Armstrong serves in several roles at Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences (VHS) at Old Dominion University (ODU) in Norfolk, Virginia. He is Executive Director of the Sentara Center for Healthcare Simulation and Immersive Learning, where he administers the 26 full-time and 150 part-time workforce, including staff, educators, technicians, and standardized patients. Bob is also the Program Director for the National Center for Collaboration in Medical Modeling and Simulation (NCCMMS). He is responsible for development of collaborative partnerships, personnel management, integration, and external funding. Lastly, Bob is the VHS Director of Corporate Relations, focused on creating commercial outlets for VHS generated research, development, and services.

Bob joined VHS from Booz Allen Hamilton, where he provided M&S-based analysis, developed M&S training tools, and drafted M&S policy for Department of Defense clients. Prior to his time at Booz Allen, Bob was Director of Technology at the Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center at ODU. Bob served as Conference Chair for MODSIM World in 2010.

Bob retired from the U.S. Marine Corps as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2005 after a twenty year career. When he was not leading Marines as an artillery officer, he ran simulation centers and led a $350 million effort to enhance Marine Corps readiness through the application of M&S. Bob deployed to Mogadishu, Somalia, during Operation Restore Hope, and served in Kuwait, Okinawa, Japan, and Seoul, South Korea with the 1st and 3rd Marine Divisions.

Bob Armstrong is owner of Epicural, LLC, a company he started in 2016 to provide an outlet for his expertise in the areas of organizational effectiveness, leadership development, medical modeling and simulation, and process management.

Bob is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering, and a graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School, where he earned a Master of Science Degree in Computer Science. He lives in Smithfield, Virginia with his wife Michelle.

Scott Doss

CIO AI Directorate Lead, Air Force Research Laboratory, Munitions Directorate

Scott Doss is the Chief Information Officer for the Munitions Directorate, Air Force Research Laboratory, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. He provides strategic IT, AI, and technical guidance to a workforce of more than 900 military, civilian, and contractor personnel leading discovery, development, and integration of affordable warfighting weapons technologies for the Department of the Air Force. The Munitions Directorate advances applied research for seekers, navigation and control, image processing, munitions integration, warheads, fuzing, explosives, and technology assessment methodologies.

Paul Graham, Ph.D.

Director of Applied Innovations, DEVCOM SC UARC (ICT)

Dr. Paul Graham is the Director of Applied Innovations at the Institute for Creative Technologies, a University Applied Research Center (UARC), sponsored by the U.S. Army. In this role, Dr. Graham is tasked with defining new and innovative R&D vectors for the UARC to pursue, as well as assisting ICT's labs and groups to mature and grow their research into new and previously unexplored areas across the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Intelligence Community (IC).

Before moving into academia, Dr. Graham served in the U.S. Air Force (USAF) for over twenty years in many varied roles including: faculty positions for the Department of Computer & Cyber Science at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA); Chief of Operations, Communications and Information Directorate of the National Air and Space Intelligence Center; as well as a variety of leadership, analyst, and operational positions within Air Combat Command, Air Force Test and Evaluation, U.S. Central Command, and U.S. Special Forces Command. While on the faculty at USAFA, he worked with undergraduate computer science students to explore how augmented and virtual reality can enhance pilot training and increase the effectiveness for controlling swarms of small unmanned aerial vehicles.

After retiring from the USAF, Dr. Graham joined Improbable U.S. Defense & National Security, to lead a team of applied scientists and software engineers building social and infrastructure models for high-fidelity simulations at the scale of large cities. After that, he led a team developing and deploying artificial intelligence and automation applications for The LinQuest Corporation's team in Space Operation Command's Digital Transformation directorate.

Dr. Graham received his Ph.D. in Computer Science, University of Southern California, and worked in ICT's Vision and Graphics Lab, supervised by Dr. Paul Debevec from 2011 to 2014. His Ph.D. thesis focused on creating photorealistic avatars for use in training and simulation across the DoD, and he contributed to the Scanning and Printing a 3D Portrait of President Barack Obama (2014), in collaboration with the Smithsonian Digitization Program Office.

Bob Kleinhample, CMSP

President, RCK Simulations

Bob Kleinhample currently serves as the President of RCK Simulations providing business growth strategies and modeling, simulation, and training services. Prior to establishing RCK Simulations, Bob led the growth for 2 small businesses as well as led the immersive technologies and training innovation lines of business for SAIC. Bob has 20 years of industry experience leading modeling, simulation, and training. He retired from the U.S. Army in 2006 as a Field Artillery Officer and Simulation Operations Officer. Bob is a member of the Council of Chairs for the Interservice/Industry, Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC) and currently leads the National Training and Simulation Association (NTSA) Next Big Thing Committee and Top Under 40 Committee. Bob holds a master's degree in operations research from Old Dominion University and a bachelor's degree in engineering management from the United States Military Academy. Bob resides in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Bharat Patel

Product Lead, Project Linchpin, PEO IEW&S

Bharat C. Patel currently serves as the Product Lead for Project Linchpin, an initiative he spearheaded in July 2022. Project Linchpin is now an investment activity that serves as the Army's AI Operations and Services Ecosystem for all Army acquisition programs implementing AI.

In this role, Mr. Patel is actively establishing a dynamic, agile, and value-driven organization. He is creating the mission and vision to set strategic acquisition and programmatic objectives, and is driving the technical strategy with key pillars focused on secure, trusted infrastructure, standards, and governance. This strategy is enabled by a multi-layered contracting approach to access industry best-of-breed products, solutions, and services. Mr. Patel has also created strategic partnerships across the Department of Defense, Intelligence Community, and the Military Services to maximize investments and share resources. Through these efforts and Mr. Patel's leadership, Project Linchpin manages an AI ecosystem that encompasses over 25 companies working across 10 different states, with the objective to identify more companies across the United States to enable the Army to achieve its AI objectives.

Prior to this role, Mr. Patel led all studies, pilots, and prototyping efforts for Project Manager, Intelligence Systems and Analytics (PM IS&A). In this position, he led the ground station modernization effort that informed the Tactical Intelligence Targeting Access Node (TITAN), the Army's next-generation Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance ground station and the Army's major contribution to Joint All-Domain Command and Control. TITAN is enabled by AI and ML to process sensor data received from Space, High Altitude, Aerial, and Terrestrial layers. TITAN will provide intelligence support to targeting and situational awareness and understanding, ultimately reducing the sensor-to-shooter timeline and enabling Multi-Domain Operations. He was also the Army's technical lead in support of the Algorithmic Warfare Cross-Functional Team (a.k.a. Project Maven), deploying Full Motion Video (FMV) computer vision AI/ML in operations and assisting Project Maven conduct 3rd party test & evaluation of the FMV models prior to deployment. Mr. Patel also managed all Science and Technology (S&T) efforts spanning across the IS&A portfolio. In this role, he worked closely with the DoD and Army S&T community to shape strategy, manage efforts, and author transition opportunities. In his spare time, he served as the lead engineer for a software intensive acquisition category 1 POR that fielded capability to the entire Army Intelligence Warfighting function, integrating numerous Industry and Government capabilities including S&T efforts. Mr. Patel started his career supporting PEO IEW&S Headquarters, during which time he guided critical efforts in support of Army Modernization.

At the PEO level, he was the Strategic Technology Manager working across the PEO portfolio to identify technology gaps to inform the Army requirements community, Industry, and the S&T community. Mr. Patel also developed long range technology roadmaps informed by Industry and Government investments. Mr. Patel leveraged the roadmaps to communicate technology evolution, leading to shaping modernization efforts including the Army's Signals Intelligence and the Terrestrial Layer Portfolios.

Rashida Richardson

Senior Counsel, Artificial Intelligence, Mastercard

Rashida Richardson is a Senior Counsel, Privacy & Artificial Intelligence at Mastercard. She is also a Distinguished Scholar of Technology and Policy at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and a Senior AI Policy Expert in the Responsible AI Practice Group of the Institute of Experiential AI at Northeastern University. Rashida is a nationally recognized expert in the civil rights implications of artificial intelligence and technology policy more broadly. Rashida has served as an Attorney Advisor in the Federal Trade Commission's Office of the Chair and as a Senior Policy Advisor for Data and Democracy at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Biden Administration. Rashida has also worked on a range of civil rights and technology policy issues at the German Marshall Fund, Rutgers Law School, AI Now Institute, the American Civil Liberties Union of New York (NYCLU), and the Center for HIV Law and Policy. Her work has been featured in the Emmy-Award Winning Documentary, The Social Dilemma, and in major publications like the New York Times, Wired, MIT Technology Review, and NPR (national and local member stations). She received her BA with honors in the College of Social Studies at Wesleyan University and her JD from Northeastern University School of Law.

Bob Sottilare, Ph.D.

Vice President, Training & Simulation Solutions, Soar Technology, LLC

Dr. Robert Sottilare, Vice President, Training Solutions, joined SoarTech in 2018 after completing a long federal career with both U.S. Army and Navy training science and technology organizations.

He has nearly 40 years of experience as a researcher, developer, and evaluator of instructional technology and training systems. His experience spans government (U.S. Army and Navy science & technology organizations), industry, and academia.

His recent research has focused on intelligent networked solutions for analysis and training, adaptive instruction including learner and team modeling, automated authoring tools, AI-based real-time instructional management, and evaluation methods for intelligent tutoring systems (ITSs). He founded the Adaptive Instructional System (AIS) Consortium, a non-profit organization under IEEE Industry and Standards Technology Organization (ISTO) to represent companies and universities within the AIS research and development community and promote open source AIS technology development in 2020.

At the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, he founded and led the adaptive training science & technology program and is the father of the award-winning Generalized Intelligent Framework for Tutoring (GIFT) & the Global Learning Toolkit (GLT), two open-source adaptive instructional architectures.

Dr. Sottilare is a past Program Chair of the Defense & Homeland Security Simulation Conference. He is a past chair and U.S. National lead for the Technical Cooperation Program's Training Technology Panel and several NATO Research Task Groups including the "Assessment of Intelligent Tutoring System Technologies & Opportunities" and the "Assessment of Augmentation Technologies for Improving Human Performance." Dr. Sottilare is the founding chair of the AIS Conference and a charter member of the National Science Foundation's Learner Data Institute located at the University of Memphis.

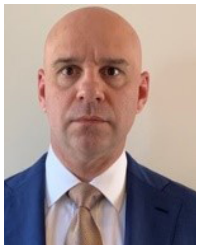
He is a faculty scholar and former adjunct professor for graduate level courses on Intelligent Tutoring System theory and design at the University of Central Florida (UCF). He earned a patent (#7,525,735) for a high-resolution, head-mounted projection display using virtual target technologies to support realistic virtual, live (embedded targets) and augmented reality training. He is a recipient of the U.S. Army Meritorious Service Award (2018; 2nd highest civilian award), the U.S. Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service (2008; 5th highest civilian award), the National Training & Simulation Association (NTSA) Team Award for Education & Human Performance (2019) for his contributions to GIFT, IITSEC Best Tutorial (2020) and two lifetime achievement awards in Modeling & Simulation: U.S. Army (2012; inaugural recipient) and NTSA Governor's Award (2015). He earned his doctorate in Modeling & Simulation with a focus in intelligent systems from UCF.

Brian Stensrud, Ph.D.

Technical Fellow, Artificial Intelligence, CAE USA

Dr. Brian Stensrud is currently serving as CAE's Technical Fellow for Artificial Intelligence, providing guidance and strategy on the adoption, application, and design of AI solutions across both its Defense and Civil Aviation business units.

Brian has over 20 years' experience designing, developing, and deploying AI-enabled training and decision-support systems, and has led the execution of over 30 DoD-sponsored RDT&E efforts across many of the services including ARL, ONR, AFRL, and DARPA. Brian received his Ph.D. in Artificial Intelligence from the University of Central Florida in 2005, and holds undergraduate degrees in Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Mathematics from the University of Florida. Brian works out of CAE's Orlando office, and resides in nearby Winter Springs with his wife, Kacey, and his three boys.



Mark "Ernie" Gombo

Strategic Account Director,, Microsoft Federal

Mark "Ernie" Gombo has been at Microsoft for 4 years and is a Strategic Account Director within a Mission Team inside the National Security Group at Microsoft Federal. Ernie is focused on delivering innovative and revolutionary capabilities and technologies to the Department of Defense, the Defense Industrial Base, and Intel Community. Specifically, he is focused on capabilities required for the complex demands of future operating environments at all echelons of the force, and across the competition – conflict continuum. Ernie is retired Marine Corps EA-6B Electronic Warfare Officer serving his final years in the Marine Corps as lead for Marine Corps EW at Headquarters USMC, DC CD&I and subsequently as a Lead Planner supporting The Commandant of the Marine Corps - Force Design 2030 Efforts. He is a graduate of Virginia Tech, the Naval Postgraduate School and Marine Corps' School of Advanced Warfighting.

Jon Stresing

Senior Account Manager, DoD, NVIDIA

Jon Stresing, MBA, is a Senior Account Manager for the DoD and the Robotics Lead for NVIDIA's defense efforts. A lifelong learner with a passion for problem-solving, Jon is particularly intrigued by leveraging math and AI/ML to address complex challenges. Jon also serves as an Infantryman in the Maryland Army National Guard, with deployments to Iraq (2007-2008) and Egypt (2011-2012), and missions during the Baltimore riots, COVID-19, and the Capitol riots.

Throughout his career, Jon worked as a management consultant for various defense clients, including the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Defense Security Service, DISA, USCYBERCOM, NSA, the White House Communications Agency, the National Air and Space Intelligence Center, and the FBI. His dedication to the DoD and enthusiasm for technology make him uniquely positioned to support National Security customers—such as the Army, USCYBERCOM, DISA, and JHU-APL—by solving their most critical challenges with NVIDIA's cutting-edge technology. NVIDIA's innovations are vital to advancing the DoD's capabilities, establishing it as an indispensable partner in defense and AI development.

Jon is passionate about promoting STEM and serves as a Vice President on the board of directors for the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) Central Maryland Chapter. In this role, Jon helps plan, develop, and execute a variety of events that contributes hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships to STEM students. Jon is also enthusiastic about helping transitioning service members. He volunteers extensively in the Veteran community leveraging his network to help transitioning service members find meaningful employment.

When he isn't working, serving in the National Guard or volunteering, Jon is home with his wife and three children (9, 6, and 2). One his favorite activities to do with his children is building projects out of Snap Circuits, and looks forward to building robots with his son soon. Jon loves to work out, run, cook, fish, and crab.

Please connect with Jon on LinkedIn where he shares technology insights and other news regularly. https://www.linkedin.com/in/jonstresing/

Jaimie Weber, M.D.

Associate Chief Medical Informatics Officer, Tampa General Hospital; Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine

Dr. Jaimie Weber serves as the Associate Chief Medical Informatics Officer at Tampa General Hospital (TGH) and is an Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine. Since joining TGH in 2023 as Medical Director for Quality Analytics, Dr. Weber has led transformative initiatives, including groundbreaking advancements in sepsis care. Under her leadership, the organization achieved a more than 30% reduction in sepsis mortality, enabling over 400 critically ill patients to recover and return home to their families.

In her current role, Dr. Weber drives the clinical informatics and data analytics strategy for TGH, ensuring alignment with the institution's clinical, operational, quality, and financial objectives. She is part of the executive leadership team overseeing the development and implementation of the AI-enabled Care Coordination Center (C3), a cutting-edge initiative redesigning care coordination and operational efficiency across the health system.

Dr. Weber is a recognized leader in advancing analytics and artificial intelligence in healthcare. She has played a pivotal role in establishing TGH's AI governance committee and processes, fostering innovation and collaboration across the organization. As a vital bridge between electronic health record (EHR) clinical applications and business intelligence teams, she supports the design, deployment, and evaluation of solutions that enhance clinical decision-making, quality improvement, population health management, research, and innovation.

With a passion for improving patient outcomes through technology and collaboration, Dr. Weber continues to shape the future of healthcare by leveraging data and AI to address complex challenges and drive transformative change.

Shawn Weil, Ph.D.

Principal Cognitive Scientist and Chief Growth Officer, Aptima, Inc.

Shawn Weil is at the forefront of advancing AI-enabled solutions in modeling, simulation, and training (MS&T) to enhance national preparedness, response, and security. As Chief Growth Officer at Aptima, Inc. – a recognized leader in developing AI-driven technologies that optimize human performance and mission readiness – Dr. Weil drives corporate strategy, market expansion, and the alignment of research directions with critical operational needs. Experienced in human-AI teaming, command and control systems, and performance assessment, Shawn has served as a principal investigator on transformative Department of Defense programs for DARPA, the Office of Naval Research, and the Air Force Research Laboratory.

Shawn earned his Ph.D. in Cognitive/ Experimental Psychology from The Ohio State University, specializing in cognitive systems engineering and quantitative psychology. He is a member of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, the American Psychological Association, and the National Defense Industrial Association.

Kevin Yee, Ph.D.

Special Assistant to the Provost for Artificial Intelligence and Director, Faculty Center for Teaching & Learning, University of Central Florida

Kevin has worked in educational development since 2004, serving as director of various teaching centers since 2012. He joined UCF's Faculty Center in 2022. He has also previously held 9-month faculty positions at Duke University, Pomona College, and the University of Iowa.

He earned his Ph.D. in German Literature from UC Irvine in 1997, and has taught a wide assortment of German language and culture courses, as well as many courses in general humanities, film, and cultural studies, with a particular emphasis on popular culture. Recent examples include Cultural Analysis Through the Hunger Games, Interpreting Marvel's Avengers, Critical Analysis of the Harry Potter Movies, Princess Fairy Tales, and Deconstructing Walt Disney World.

In the classroom, Kevin believes the science of learning provides a crucial foundation for instructors, influencing everything from course design and assessment structure, to classroom management and lesson planning. He is an avid believer in interactive teaching, and has curated a popular list of interactive techniques since 1992. More recently, he's been developing resources for faculty related to AI Fluency and how to use generative AI (such as ChatGPT) in the college classroom, as well as ways faculty can use AI in their day job. He has been an invited speaker on these and other topics in pedagogy both domestically and internationally.

His research interests within pedagogy are wide, and have included student motivation, study skills, and various emerging technologies for teaching. He has recently co-edited a book of case studies on the intersection of VR and ethics in the college classroom.

NTSA Leadership Biographies

VADM Sean S. Buck, USN (Ret.)

President, NTSA

Vice Admiral Sean S. Buck, USN (Ret.) is the President of the National Training and Simulation Association (NTSA). VADM Buck is a seasoned leader with over 40 years of experience in commissioned military service and higher education. He served as the 63rd Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy, where he led the institution through significant challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring continuous operations in support of its critical mission of developing the leaders of tomorrow for our nation. Throughout his career, he commanded at many levels, including as Commander of U.S. Fourth Fleet & Naval Forces Southern Command, where he was responsible for key security and humanitarian operations across the Americas. In his current role, VADM Buck leads NTSA in advancing the training, modeling, and simulation industry, representing and advocating for its membership that drives innovation in defense and technology sectors. His leadership extends to serving on advisory boards for Academy Securities, Synergist Technology, and First Command Financial Services, and contributing to the development of the U.S. Naval Academy's athletic programs. VADM Buck holds a Master's in Security Policy Studies from The George Washington University and has completed executive education at Harvard and MIT. His commitment to excellence continues to shape the future of training and simulation.

Debbie Langelier, CEM

Senior Vice President, NTSA

Debbie Langelier is the Senior Vice President of the National Training and Simulation Association (NTSA), a nonprofit organization in Arlington, VA. Langelier oversees management of all NTSA staff and operations including membership, marketing, and events. She initiated and is responsible for maintaining a high-level security program both for NTSA and I/ITSEC. Langelier joined NTSA in 2004 and was previously Assistant Vice President. She previously held the title of Director of Exhibits & Sponsorships, a role in which she is credited for a growth rate of more than 30 percent. In this role, she was responsible for exhibits, sponsorships, and marketing for six events, including the Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC), the largest training and simulation event of its kind in the world. Her expertise in marketing has let her push toward the future with a year-round digital presence. Langelier is a Certified Exhibit Manager and has worked in the field for over 30 years. With her background of more than a decade in customer service, creative service, and association sales management, Langelier knows what truly drives the non-profit sector and trade show industry. She knows that her talent in connecting people to people is one of the most important achievements in all organizations of which she has been a part of.

Linda Brent, Ed.D.

Strategic Planning, NTSA; Chief Executive Officer, The ASTA Group, LLC

Dr. Linda Brent has developed, established, and operated government-oriented businesses for the past 25 years. She manages a staff of senior professionals engaged in all aspects of business conduct with existing and emerging DoD-focused businesses. Dr. Brent also provides support to the National Training and Simulation Association (NTSA) for Strategic Planning, the I/ITSEC Conference Committee, liaison and support to the Modeling and Simulation Congressional Caucus, and Chair of the National Committee for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) activities. She and her organization provide national, regional, and local support for initiatives around the nation on the improvement of education for our nation's children and youth. Dr. Brent brings 25 years of experience in both the defense industry and other government agencies, has made numerous presentations at state, national, and international conferences, and has conducted research and published papers in the areas of training, simulation, and psychology. Additionally, she is actively involved in numerous national and international professional organizations supporting the defense and educational solutions industry. She has held faculty and research positions at several leading universities and colleges, teaching courses in research design, human learning, training design, and human factors. She also has been a research associate for the U.S. Air Force in neural networking and adult learning/task management. Dr. Brent earned a BA and MS degree in Education/Psychology from Wittenberg University and Nazareth College of Rochester, respectively, and her Ed.D. from the University of Rochester.