

Intelligence Operations & Reform: Selected Challenges & Impact Over 50 Years

Speaker Bios

Karen Schaefer



Karen M. Schaefer held numerous leadership positions within the Central Intelligence (CIA) during her 26-year career, with overseas assignments as an operations officer in Latin America, Europe, Afghanistan and Iraq (where she served as Chief of Base). Her headquarters positions included Chief of Operations, Directorate of Science and Technology; Deputy Associate Director of Military Affairs; Deputy Chief of Counterintelligence, Near East Division; Executive Assistant to Deputy Director CIA; and Group Chief, Iran Operations Division. She also served as Director of Intelligence Programs at the National Security Council (NSC), where she managed the President's covert action programs. She closed out her government career as the Associate Executive Assistant Director (AEAD) of the National Security Branch, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Director's Senior CIA Representative. Ms. Schaefer served as the Policy Lead for the Biden Transition Team Central Intelligence Review Team in 2020.

Ms. Schaefer helped to establish and served on the board of Microstrategy Government Services from its inception to December 2024. She currently sits on the advisory boards of Seerist and Siemens Government Technologies. She also sits on the advisory boards for numerous non-profit organizations to include the International Spy Museum, Third Option Foundation, FAMIL, the Honor Foundation and the Sycamore Institute. Ms. Schaefer is an Expert for the Cipher Brief.

Ms. Schaefer holds a BA in Spanish and Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia, and her awards include the Presidential Rank Award, Distinguished Career Intelligence Medal, the CIA Director's Medal for Extraordinary Fidelity and Essential Service, the United States Special Operations Command Outstanding Civilian Service Medal, and two Director of National Intelligence Exceptional Achievement Medals.

David Marlowe



David Marlowe served 32 years in the Central Intelligence Agency's Clandestine Service, most recently as the Deputy Director, CIA, for Operations. Prior to that, he served as Assistant Director, CIA, for the Near East, from 2017 through 2020. Dave spent the majority of his career overseas, primarily in the Middle East, including several tours as Chief of Station.

He is the recipient of the Intelligence Star, the Distinguished Career Intelligence Medal, the Distinguished Intelligence Medal, the George H W Bush Award for Counterterrorism, three Director's Awards, and the Presidential Rank Award.

Dave is a graduate of William and Mary and a former enlisted soldier.

William D. Murray



William D. Murray has extensive leadership and management experience in the government and private sectors. He is a co-founder of the CII and has been involved in its development since the inception. He has taken part in most of the discussions with other organizations and individuals that guided the development of the organization, and, like Mr. Jameson, is a retiree from and well known within the Intelligence Community, which CII was created to serve.

Mr. Murray formed and operates a small but successful business consultancy that has been in business for six years. He is thoroughly familiar with all aspects of running small and medium-sized organizations. During his 40 years career as a Federal employee, he managed several large entities with multi-million dollar budgets. He has extensive experience with the kinds of issues the CII is designed to address as a result of managing employees who have found themselves in situations where they needed help.

During his tenure with CIA, Mr. Murray served as former CIA Station Chief, Senior Manager and Operations Officer (Europe, Middle East, Balkans, South Asia).

Dana Dyson, Moderator



Dana Dyson served with the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA's) Office of General Counsel (OGC) from December 1999 to September 2023. Immediately prior to her retirement from government service, she was the Deputy General Counsel of CIA for Operations. In that capacity, she provided legal advice and counsel to the Director and Deputy Director of CIA and supervised attorneys assigned to the CIA's Directorate of Operations, Directorate of Science and Technology, Directorate of Analysis, and Directorate of Digital Innovation/Center for Cyber Intelligence, as well as attorneys assigned to CIA's eleven topical and geographic Mission Centers. She was responsible for the legal advice and services provided by those counsel in support of CIA operational activities and analyses. From January 2021 to March 2022, Ms. Dyson served as the Acting Senior Deputy General Counsel and the Acting Deputy General Counsel for Operations, providing advice and counsel to Agency leadership and supervising the same operational law cadre. Prior to these assignments, from April 2014 to January 2021, she served as the Chief of OGC's Operations Division and as the Legal Advisor to the Deputy Director of CIA for Operations (DDO).

Ms. Dyson graduated from the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill School of Law in 1990 with a Juris Doctor degree and from UNC in 1987 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Before joining the CIA, Ms. Dyson served on active duty as a judge advocate in the US Navy from 1990-1999, serving in various positions including as Deputy Legal Advisor to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Staff Judge Advocate, USS SIMON LAKE (AS-33), Staff Judge Advocate, Submarine Squadron Twenty-two, and Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant, U.S. Naval Academy. She subsequently affiliated with the Navy Reserve. Her reserve assignments included service as Deputy Legal Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and as Commanding Officer of the Navy JAG reserve unit supporting the Chief of Naval Personnel and Commander, Navy Personnel Command. Ms. Dyson retired from the Navy in 2012 as a Captain in the Navy JAG Corps Reserve.

Ms. Dyson is the founder and principal of NatSec Strategic Advisory Services, LLC, providing consulting services to US companies operating in the national security sector. Ms. Dyson also serves as a senior advisor to US law firm Steptoe, LLP's National Security and Global Risk Management Team, and is an experienced national security law educator, serving as an adjunct professor and student advisor at the Georgetown University Law Center and the Washington College of Law at American University. Her personal decorations include the Presidential Rank Awards for Distinguished and Meritorious Service, the National Intelligence Superior Service Medal, the CIA Distinguished Career Intelligence Medal, the CIA Director's Award, the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the CIA's Clandestine Service Award and the Director of National Intelligence Intelligence Community Legal Award for Lifetime Achievement.