

Thomas W. Spahr, Ph.D.
Colonel, U.S. Army

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Current Position

Chair, Department of Military Strategy, Planning, and Operations (DMSPO) US Army War College,
Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Professor of Military Studies Chair

Education

Ph.D., History, March, 2011, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

Dissertation: "Occupying for Peace, The U.S. Army in Mexico, 1846-1848"

Committee: Dr. Mark Grimsley, Dr. John Guilmartin Jr., Dr. Kenneth J. Andrien, Dr. Randolph Roth

M.A., History, May 2007, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

Thesis: "The U.S. Army and Counterinsurgency in Central Mexico, 1847-1848"

M.A. Strategic Studies, June 2019, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Strategic Research Project: "Winning the War, and the Peace, War Termination in Mexico, 1848"

B.A., History, May, 1997, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware

Awards

Excellence in Teaching Award, Army War College Core Curriculum, Academic Year 2022.

Article of the Day, CSIS Transnational Threats, "Adapting Intelligence to the New Afghanistan,"
September 30, 2021.

Selected Publications

Genevieve Lester, James Breckenridge and Thomas Spahr, "Intelligence and the US Army War College:
The Academic-Practitioner Relationship in Professional Military Education," *The Academic-
Practitioner Divide in Intelligence Studies* (eds. Arcos, Drumhiller and Phythian), (Lanham, Md:
Rowman and Littlefield, 2022).

"Adapting Intelligence to the New Afghanistan," *War on the Rocks*, September 30, 2021
<https://warontherocks.com/2021/09/adapting-intelligence-to-the-new-afghanistan/>

"Reframing the Mission in Afghanistan," *War Room, The US Army War College Online Journal*,
<https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/articles/reframing-the-mission/> March 11, 2021.

"Let's Prepare for Future Wars, or Brace for Catastrophic Defeat," *War Room, The US Army War College
online Journal*, [https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/articles/prepare-for-future-war-or-brace-
for-defeat/](https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/articles/prepare-for-future-war-or-brace-for-defeat/) August 15, 2019.

"Incorporating Artificial Intelligence: Lessons Learned from the Private Sector," Paul Oh, Thomas Spahr,
Andre Abadie, Chris Chase, *War Room, The US Army War College*,
<https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/articles/incorporating-artificial-intelligence-private-sector/> June
19, 2019.

"4th Infantry Division Military Intelligence Training Strategy," in *The Military Intelligence
Professional Bulletin*, "Volume 45, No 2, April-June 2019.

"Training to Win," in *The Military Intelligence Professional Bulletin*, Volume 45, No 1, January-March,
2019.

"1st: Matthew Ridgeway; 2nd: Winfield Scott," "The Second Best Field Army Commander—a
Whiteboard" on *War Room, The United States Army War College*,
<https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/special-series/whiteboard/wb07-second-best-1/>,
December 17, 2018.

“The Mexican War: An Overview and Historiographic Discussion,” in Freznos, Christos and Antonio Thompson, *The Routledge Handbook of American Military and Diplomatic History, The Colonial Period to 1877*. New York: Routledge, 2015.

“S2 Leadership: 10 Lessons Learned from a Brigade Combat Team S2,” in *The Military Intelligence Professional Bulletin*, Volume 39, No 2, April-June 2013.

Review of G.H. Bennett. *Destination Normandy, Three American Regiments on D-Day*, in *Army History*, No 78, Winter 2011.

History of the Military Art to 1914, Third Edition, (contributing editor), United States Military Academy Department of History, 2008.

“The Case for the MI Ranger,” in *The Military Intelligence Professional Bulletin*, April-June 2003.

Selected Presentations

“Polk’s Toxic Success,” U.S. Army War College Civil-Military Relations Center Inaugural Conference, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, 5 May 2023.

“Theater Level Intelligence,” Lecture to the Nigerian War College, Abuja, Nigeria, September 30, 2021.

“Lessons Learned during Regionally Aligned Forces Mission in Europe,” presented to professional staff Senate Armed Services Committee and House Armed Services Committee, 20 April 2018.

“Occupying for Peace: The U.S. Army’s Occupation of Mexico City, 1847-1848,” presented on Panel titled “Purposeful Occupation: Wartime Occupation Policy as a Means Towards Securing Favorable Peace,” at the Society for Military History 84th Annual Meeting, 30 March-2 April, 2017.

“Occupying for Peace, The U.S. Army in Mexico” Presentation to the Army Center for Military History, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C., 22 November, 2010.

“An Unexpected Occupation: The U.S. Army in Northern Mexico, 1846-1848,” Presentation at the Society for Military History 76th Annual Meeting, 2-5 April 2009.

“Military Government in Mexico” lecture delivered to the New York Military Affairs Symposium, New York City, 5 December 2008.

Podcasts:

“Allies, Adversaries , Priorities and Plans: the NDS,” Professor Robert Bradford and COL Thomas Spahr, *A Better Peace Podcasts, Official Podcast of the US Army War College*, November 15, 2022.

“Lessons of Afghanistan: A Conversation with MG Brian Mennes,” MG Brian Mennes and COL Tom Spahr, *A Better Peace Podcasts, Official Podcast of the US Army War College*, March 22, 2022.

“How do Organizations Change after Incorporating Artificial Intelligence,” Tom Spahr, Chris Chase, Andre Abadie, *A Better Peace Podcasts, Official Podcast of the US Army War College*, June 3, 2019.

Courses Taught

At The United States Army War College

Military Strategy and Campaigning Core Curriculum, Academic Year 2021, 2022.

Campaigns and Commanders Elective (WF2308), Spring, 2021, Winter, 2022.

Strategic Intelligence for Leaders (NS2280/WF2255), Spring, 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023.

At The United States Military Academy, West Point (USMA)

History of the Military Art from 450A.D. to 1914 (HI 301), Fall 2007 and 2008.

History of the Military Art since 1914 (HI302), Spring 2008 and 2009.

History of Unconventional Warfare (HI381), Fall 2008, Fall 2009.
Manifest Destiny and the Mexican War, 1840-4860 (HI498), Course Director, Fall 2008.
Directed two senior theses (HI 499), Spring 2009.

At The United States Air Force Academy (USAFA)

History of Modern Warfare, Fall, 2015 and Spring, 2016.
Limited War in the Twentieth Century: Korea and Vietnam, Course Director, Spring 2016.

Staff Rides:

Gettysburg Staff Ride: War College Seminar, Sept, 2020, 2021, 2022

Antietam Staff Ride: US Army War College WF2308, The Commander's Art, March 2021, December 2021; Northrup Grumman Leader Development Exercise, May 2022; U.K Military Liaison element, Washington D.C. region.

Media:

The Wall Street Journal, "Four Intelligence Agencies Produced Extensive Reports on Afghanistan, but All Failed to Predict Kabul's Rapid Collapse," October 28, 2021, interviewed and quoted.
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/four-u-s-intelligence-agencies-produced-extensive-reports-on-afghanistan-but-all-failed-to-predict-kabuls-rapid-collapse-11635415201> (interviewed and quoted).

Jeremiah Marshall, ABC 27 News, "U.S. Army War College educator reacts to the recent attacks in Afghanistan," August 26, 2021
[U.S. Army War College educator reacts to the recent attack in Afghanistan \(abc27.com\)](https://abc27.com/news/education/us-army-war-college-educator-reacts-to-recent-attacks-in-afghanistan/) (featured)

Tom Roeder, *The Gazette*, "Medal of Honor comes with weighty expectations for recipients, expert says,"
https://gazette.com/military/medal-of-honor-comes-with-weighty-expectations-for-recipients-expert-says/article_a1914e3b-7c78-52ec-97ec-643b835b67f9.html, (interviewed and quoted).

Selected Professional Duty Assignments

Assistant Professor, Department of Military Strategy, Planning and Operations, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, PA 17055, July 2020 – July 2022.

Chief of Staff for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence (J2), U.S. Forces Afghanistan and Resolute Support, Afghanistan, July 2019-July 2020.

Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence (G2), 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado, May 2016-June, 2018.

Assistant Professor of History, US. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO, July 2015-May 2016.

Speechwriter to the Vice Chief of Staff, Army, General Daniel B. Allyn, Pentagon, Washington, D.C., June, 2014-July 2015.

Speechwriter to the Vice Chief of Staff, Army, General John F. Campbell, Pentagon, Washington, D.C., June, 2013 – 2014.

Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence (G2), 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, October, 2013-June, 2013.

Brigade Combat Team (BCT) Intelligence Officer (S2), 4th BCT, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, July, 2011 – October, 2012.

Battalion S3, Operations Officer, The Army Geospatial-Intelligence Battalion (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency), Washington, D.C. and North Fort Belvoir, July 2010-July, 2011.

Assistant Professor of History, United States Military Academy, West Point, New York July 2007-July 2010