**Thomas W. Spahr, Ph.D.**

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**Current Position**

DeSerio Chair of Theater and Strategic Intelligence, U.S. Army War College

**Education**

M.A. Strategic Studies (Distinguished Graduate), June 2019, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle,

Pennsylvania.

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

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

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

## Awards and Fellowships

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

Article of the Day, CSIS Transnational Threats, “Adapting Intelligence to the New Afghanistan,”

September 30, 2021.

Twice nominate for Excellence in Teaching Award, Department of History, United States Military

Academy, 2009, 2010.

General Omar N. Bradley Fellowships in Military History, 2009, 2021.

## Publications

“[Shifting Strategies in Afghanistan](https://warontherocks.com/2024/11/rewind-and-reconnoiter-shifting-strategies-in-afghanistan-with-thomas-spahr/),” *War on the Rocks Rewind and Reconnoiter:,* November 28, 2024.

## “Raven Sentry, Employing AI for Intelligence Indications and Warnings in Afghanistan,” The US Army War College Quarterly: Parameters, Summer, 2024.

## 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: Lowman and Littlefield, 2022). <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781538144473/The-Academic-Practitioner-Divide-in-Intelligence-Studies>.

## “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,* August 15, 2019<https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/articles/prepare-for-future-war-or-brace-for-defeat/> .

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

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

<https://mipb.army.mil/archive/apr-jun-2019>.

## “Training to Win,” in *The Military Intelligence Professional Bulletin*, Volume 45, No 1, January-March,

## 2019, <https://mipb.army.mil/archive/jan-mar-2019> .

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

“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.

*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**

“Theater and Strategic Intelligence Leader Professional Development Session,” July 26, 2024,

for 130 leaders in TRADOC and Military Surface Deployment and Distribution

Command.

“Observations on the War in Ukraine: Reflections from Planning Support Mission to Security Assistance

Group-Ukraine,” COL Thomas Spahr to select students and faculty, US Army War College (35

total), Jan 12, 2024.

## “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 50 members of the

professional staff Senate Armed Services Committee and House Armed Services Committee,

20 April 2018.

“Good Ideas and Failed Promises: The Military Occupation of New Mexico, 1846-1847,” presented on a

Panel titled “The U.S. Military and Imperial Expansion in the Long Nineteenth Century,” at the

2024 Annual Meeting of The Society of Military History, 19 April, 2024.

“Polk’s Toxic Success,” U.S. Army War College Civil-Military Relations Center Inaugural

Conference, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, 5 May 2023.

“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.

“Graduate Students Veterans Panel – “War in the 21st Century: The Graduate Experience”, 30 January,

2007.

- Presentation to 100 students, faculty and guest at the Ohio State Mershon Center on military

intelligence during deployments to Afghanistan in 2001and 2005.

**Panel Chair / Discussant:**

“The All-Volunteer Force in the Modern Era,” USAWC Civil-Military Relations Center Conference,

May 4, 2024.(Chair and Discussant)

“Professional Military Education (PME) in an Era of Strategic Competition: Preparing for future

Uncertainty,” with Megan Hennesssey, John Nagl, Gary Schaub, Samantha

Taylor, and Brett Weigle at the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society, Oct 14,

2023. (Chair and Discussant)

“Modern Military Institutions at Sea and On Land,” Society of Military History Annual Conference,

2023. (Chair and Discussant)

**PodCasts - Host:**

“[Beyond Intuition: AI’s Role in Strategic Decision-Making](https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/podcasts/beyond-intuition-1/),” Stephen Gerras, Andrew Hill and Tom

Spahr, *A Better Peace Podcasts, Official Podcast of the US Army War College, Part 1,* December

10, 2024; part 2 December 17, 2024.

“[Asking the Right Data Questions,” Kelsey Gibson and Tom Spahr](https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/podcasts/the-right-questions/),”*A Better Peace Podcasts, Official*

*Podcast of the US Army War College,* August 20, 2024.

“[More Opportunities For Tailored Education at the U.S. Army War College](https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/podcasts/special-programs-2/),” Bob Bradford,

Jared Harper, Mike Stinchfield, Tom Spahr, *A Better Peace Podcasts, Official Podcast of the*

*US Army War College,* August 20, 2024.

“[Exquisite Problem Solvers: Special Operations Command North,”](https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/podcasts/socnorth/) COL Matthew Tucker and

COL Tom Spahr, *A Better Peace Podcasts, Official Podcast of the US Army War College,*

May 14, 2024.

[“Solving Data Problems at Superhuman Speeds,”](https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/podcasts/data-problems/) Dr. Alexander Miller and COL Tom Spahr, *A Better*

*Peace Podcasts, Official Podcast of the US Army War College,* Feb 27, 2024.

“[Lessons of Afghanistan: A Conversation with MG Brian Mennes](https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/podcasts/mennes/),” MG Brian Mennes and

COL Tom Spahr, *A Better Peace Podcasts, Official Podcast of the US Army War College,*

March 22, 2022.

**Podcast – Guest:**

“[Technological Advances in Ukraine](https://ssi.armywarcollege.edu/SSI-Media/Recent-Publications/Display/Article/3909102/technology-and-warfare/),” Dr. Thomas Spahr and Mr. Zak Kelbourn, *Conversations on Strategy,* U.S. Army War College Press (Sept 17, 2024).

**“**[Raven Sentry: Employing AI for Indications and Warnings in Afghanistan](https://ssi.armywarcollege.edu/SSI-Media/Podcasts-Lectures-and-Panels/mod/66554/player/582/audio/81746/),” COL Thomas W. Spahr, *Decisive Point Podcast,* July 30, 2024.

“[War Fighting, War Thinking](https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/podcasts/war-fighting-war-thinking/),” Dr. Zanel Garcia and COL Tom Spahr, *A Better Peace Podcasts, Official Podcast of the US Army War College,* Jan 23, 2024.

“[Allies, Adversaries, Priorities and Plans: the NDS](https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/podcasts/nds-2022/),” Professor Robert Bradford and COL Thomas Spahr, *A Better Peace Podcasts, Official Podcast of the US Army War College,* November 15, 2022.

## “[How do Organizations Change after Incorporating Artificial Intelligence](https://usarmywarcollege-my.sharepoint.com/personal/thomas_spahr_armywarcollege_edu/Documents/Documents/Professional/Vitae/How%20do%20Organizations%20Change%20after%20Incorporating%20Artificial%20Intelligence),” Tom Spahr, Chris Chase, Andre Abadie, *A Better Peace Podcasts, Official Podcast of the US Army War College,* June 3, 2019.

**Media**:

The Economist, “[How America built an AI tool to predict Taliban attacks: “Raven Sentry” was a](https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2024/07/31/how-america-built-an-ai-tool-to-predict-taliban-attacks)

[successful experiment in open-source intelligence](https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2024/07/31/how-america-built-an-ai-tool-to-predict-taliban-attacks),” July 31, 2024, (interviewed and quoted).

“[How the US Use AI to take on the Taliban amid drawdown](https://www.foxnews.com/world/how-us-used-ai-take-taliban-amid-drawdown),” Caitlin McFall, Fox News, Aug 4, 2024

(quoted).

The Wall Street Journal, “[Four Intelligence Agencies Produced Extensive Reports on Afghanistan, but](https://www.wsj.com/articles/four-u-s-intelligence-agencies-produced-extensive-reports-on-afghanistan-but-all-failed-to-predict-kabuls-rapid-collapse-11635415201)

[All Failed to Predict Kabul’s Rapid Collapse](https://www.wsj.com/articles/four-u-s-intelligence-agencies-produced-extensive-reports-on-afghanistan-but-all-failed-to-predict-kabuls-rapid-collapse-11635415201),” October 28, 2021(interviewed and quoted).

Jeremiah Marshall, ABC 27 News, “[U.S. Army War College educator reacts to the recent attacks in](https://www.abc27.com/news/us-world/afghanistan/u-s-army-war-college-educator-reacts-to-the-recent-attack-in-afghanistan/)

[Afghanistan](https://www.abc27.com/news/us-world/afghanistan/u-s-army-war-college-educator-reacts-to-the-recent-attack-in-afghanistan/),” August 26, 2021 (profiled)

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).

**Book Reviews**

Review of GEN Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr. (USMC, Ret.), *The Melting Point, High Command and War in*

*the 21st Century,* in *The Journal of the U.S. Army War College, Parameters,* Vol 54 (3), Autumn

2024.

Review of G.H. Bennett. *Destination Normandy, Three American Regiments on D-Day,* in *Army History,*

No 78, Winter 2011*.*

**Unpublished Words**

“Polk’s Toxic Success: Civil-Military Relations during the Mexican War” (pending publication with

Military Review through the USAWC Civil Military Relations Center)

“Winning the War and Peace in Mexico: War Termination in Mexico, 1846-1848,” Strategic Research

Project for Masters of Strategic Studies, U.S. Army War College, 2019.

“Occupying for Peace, The U.S. Army in Mexico, 1846-1848,” Ph.D. Dissertation, The Ohio State

University, 2011.

**Courses Taught**

**At The United States Army War College**

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

Spring 2024.

Military Strategy and Campaigning Core Curriculum, Academic Year 2021, 2022, 2025.

Campaigns and Commanders Elective (WF2308), Spring, 2021, Winter, 2022, Spring, 2024.

14 Student Research Requirements thesis-length papers for Masters of Strategic Studies.

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

History of the Military Art from 450A.D. to 1914 (HI 301), Fall 2007, 2008, 2009.

History of the Military Art since 1914 (HI302), Spring 2008, 2009, 2010.

History of Unconventional Warfare (HI381), Fall 2008, 2009, 2010.

Manifest Destiny and the Mexican War, 1840-4860 (HI498), Course Director, Fall 2008.

**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.

**Leadership of Selected Staff Rides:**

Antietam Staff Ride: US Army War College WF2308, The Commander’s Art, March 2021, December

2021, April 2024.

USAID leadership, September 10, 2024.

Northrup Grumman Leader Development Exercise, May 2022 (Lecture and Staff Ride).

U.K Military Liaison element, April 2023 Washington D.C. Region (Lecture and Staff ride).

U.K Strategic Command, March, 2024 (Lecture and Staff Ride).

Gettysburg Staff Ride: Army War College Seminar, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023.

Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence (G2) Directorate, October 2024.

National Ground Intelligence Center, September 25-26, 2024.

Allen Distribution, May 16, 2023.

SETAF African Leaders, March 1, 2023.

Carlisle Barracks Spouses Club, 2021, 2022, 2023.

**Selected Professional Duty Assignments**

**Chair, Department of Military Strategy, Planning, and Operations (DMSPO), US Army War**

**College**, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania (July 2022 – July 2024).

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

-Led a 16-person seminar of O5 and O6-level military officers and civilians of equivalent rank in the study of military strategy and campaign planning. Led two elective courses on Strategic and Theater Intelligence and Great Military Campaigns in History.

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

-Chief of Staff for the 2-Star Senior Intelligence Officer in Kabul Afghanistan. Senior Army Intelligence Officer in Afghanistan and leader of a 200-person intelligence staff that included all intelligence specialties and representatives from the Intelligence Community (NGA, NSA, DIA). Provided intelligence to the 4-Star Commander, subordinate units, and the National Security apparatus.

**Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence (G2)**, **4th Infantry Division, and Senior Intelligence Officer,**

**Fort Carson**, Fort Carson, Colorado, May 2016-June, 2018.

-Senior Intelligence Officer for the 4th Infantry Division and Fort Carson, Colorado. Oversaw an

150-person intelligence team that included all Intelligence specialties and representatives from

the Intelligence Community (NGA, NSA, DIA).

-Senior Intelligence Officer for Regionally Aligned Forces Division to US EUCOM with a

forward-deployed headquarters in Poznan, Poland.

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

**Speechwriter to the Vice Chief of Staff, Army, General John F. Campbell (2013-2014) then General**

**Daniel B. Allyn (2014-2015),** Pentagon, Washington, D.C., June, 2014-July 2015.

**-**Researched and wrote speeches and built presentations for the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army and acted as the Vice Chief of Staff’s liaison to the Army G2 (Intelligence).

**Deputy to the 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.

-Led a 150-person intelligence team supporting a 4000-Soldier Brigade deployed to Kandahar

Province, Regional Command-South, Afghanistan during the 2011-2012 surge of U.S. forces

into Afghanistan.

**Battalion S3, Operations Officer, The Army Geospatial-Intelligence Battalion (National Geospatial-**

**Intelligence Agency)**, Washington, D.C. and North Fort Belvoir, July 2010-July, 2011.

-Battalion Operations officer for an Army Military Intelligence Battalion located inside of NGA

providing Soldiers to support the NGA and military geospatial intelligence mission.

**Assistant Professor of History, United States Military Academy, West Point, New York**

July 2007-July 2010.

**Military Intelligence Detachment Commander,** 7th Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, North Carolina,

July 2004 - August 2004 (includes an 8-month deployment to Afghanistan with the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Afghanistan).

**Battalion Intelligence Officer (S2)**, 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, North Carolina,

May 2003 - July 2004.

-Includes 2 x 3-month deployments to Colombia working as a liaison between the Intelligence

Community in the U.S. Embassy and Army Special Forces embedded with the Colombian military.

**Collection Management Officer,** 75th Ranger Regiment, July 1999 – March 2002 (includes 3-month

deployment to Afghanistan during the initial invasion in October 2001).

**Professional Organizations:**

AFCEA International (Professional Association for those engaged in defense, intelligence, security and all

related technology disciplines)

The Society for Intelligence History

The Society of Military History

Faculty Affiliate, Civil-Miliary Relations Center, U.S. Army War College

Military Intelligence Corps Association (MICA) Member

**Public Service**

School Board Member, Saint Patrick’s Elementary School, Carlisle, PA, July 2022 – present.

Assistant Track Coach (Distance Runners), Saint Patrick’s Elementary School, Carlisle, PA, March 2021 –

present.

Appalachia Services Project, Served as an adult chaperone and volunteer for high school students helping

repair homes in rural Appalachia (2023, 2024).